

INTERNATIONAL

Saxena pledges to rein in security forces; new human rights approach

SRINAGAR, India, June 12. (Reuter): The new governor of Indian Kashmir has promised to rein in security forces widely accused of trampling over human rights rules in their battle against an almost unanimously supported secessionist campaign.

"Our intention is that no innocent person is hurt or harassed," Governor Girish Saxena told journalists.

Most people in the overwhelmingly Muslim Kashmir valley, as well as senior members of Saxena's Jammu and Kashmir state government, believe the task is beyond

him. "These people have had five months to do whatever they liked to whomever they liked whenever they liked. New orders are not going to change their mentality much," said a senior official, a non-Kashmiri who asked not to be identified.

The separatist campaign burst into major violence in mid-January.

Not only the paramilitary troops but the army, one of India's most respected institutions, has been widely accused here of rape, torture, brutality and theft.

Such stories abounded in the district of Kupwara, near the line that divides Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, from the one-third of the Himalayan region held by Pakistan.

Villagers in Trehgam were initially reluctant to talk to two Western reporters, saying soldiers from the nearby army base would descend on them and beat them for doing so.

The reluctance soon vanished as anger took over.

They said the army surrounded the village early on April 21 during the holy Muslim

fasting month of Ramadan, beat up many of the men and stripped some of the women in what they said was a search for militants and arms.

None was found, they said.

Six weeks later, some of the men still bore the marks of beatings they said were inflicted that day. At least eight men were still confined to bed.

Several said they had been taken to the army camp, blindfolded, beaten and given electric shocks.

A teacher said a 10-year-old pupil had been

detained for six weeks of questioning about his father, on the army wanted list. He too had been given electric shocks, said one man confined with him.

At a nearby village, wailing women said an army unit had just seized a 75-year-old man as he planted rice alongside them. No one knew where he had been taken.

Policemen in Kupwara said the army had also arrested and tortured them. One showed cuts and bruises on his back.

Another said two teenage girls were seized

the previous week and gang-raped by five soldiers. No army comment was available, but state police confirmed "excesses" were widespread.

"We get lots of complaints but there is nothing we can do," said a senior non-Kashmiri police officer. "The paramilitary forces, the army lies to us. We are helpless."

Saxena, appointed on May 20, said the army could only act without civilian permission in a five km (three mile) zone along the border with Pakistan. Kupwara and Trehgam lie well outside it.

Replacing one deployed in 1983

US launches Indian satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, June 12. (AP): A Delta rocket lifted an Indian communications satellite into orbit today after a year's delay because of damage first from a launch pad accident and then the California earthquake.

The unmanned rocket thundered skyward, the moon in the background, at 1:52 am (0652 GMT). About an hour later, the satellite separated from the rocket and settled into a temporary orbit 130 miles (210 kms) high.

Abid Hussain, India's ambassador to the United States, said yesterday the satellite will benefit even the poorest and most rural of India's 800 million people.

"We in India believe that science and technology could be put to the service of the people, especially those people who have been so far behind of some of the advantages of progress," said Hussain.

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Photo: AP Wirephoto



Christian Brando (right) looks back towards spectators as he talks with his lawyer, Shapiro on June 9. (Reuter wirephoto)

Brando's son may have killed over sister's lies

LOS ANGELES, June 12, (Reuter): The son of actor Marlon Brando may have shot and killed his pregnant half-sister's boyfriend because of lies she told about being "slapped around," the father of the dead man said yesterday.

Christian Brando has been charged with murdering 26-year-old Dag Drollet, the Tahitian boyfriend of Cheyenne Brando, in his father's Hollywood mansion after the two had an argument over the girl.

Detectives said the younger Brando told them the shooting occurred during a fierce quarrel after he had confronted Drollet about slapping his half-sister.

But the dead man's father, Jacques Drollet, speaking to reporters outside a Los Angeles courtroom, said Marlon Brando had told him Cheyenne was lying when she said Dag Drollet had hit her.

Marlon Brando talked to me on the phone the day

after the shooting. He said his daughter Cheyenne had been lying about Dag slapping her around. He said it was totally untrue.

"He said Cheyenne had been telling lies to Christian about Dag slapping her while she was pregnant. He said it was all lies," Drollet said.

He spoke after attending a brief court hearing for Brando in which the judge set on June 25 as the day for deciding when a preliminary hearing on

charge would be held.

The younger Brando, handcuffed and wearing white prison overalls, did not speak.

His lawyer, Robert Shapiro, told reporters outside the court the shooting was "a horrible human event... for both families."

"Both Dag's father and Christian's father are soon to be the grandfathers of the same child," he said.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: A new study released Monday shows that the cancer rate in America continues to rise.

The National Cancer Institute's annual update says the incident of the disease has gone up 14 per cent from 1973 to 1987 and during that time the cancer death rate increased 5 per cent.

The survey shows that lung cancer was up 31 per cent. That is believed to be due to an increase in smoking among women, which has offset the decline among males since 1965. Lung cancer in women is up 100 per cent.

The study further shows that melanoma — cancers of the skin — is also up 83 per cent, due to increased sun exposure. (Kunis)

STOCKHOLM: The Soviet Union asked Sweden on Monday to extradite 17-year-old Dmitri Semyonov who hijacked a Soviet airliner to Stockholm on Saturday.

Confirming the request, Swedish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Birgitta Alleen said it would take at least several weeks for legal authorities to rule on the request, which Semyonov's lawyer said would be contested.

"Of course we will do what we can to enable him to stay in Sweden," the youth's attorney, Birger Olofsson, said, adding that Semyonov intended to seek political asylum later this week. (Reuter)

BAARN: Netherlands. After centuries of fighting back encroaching water with sea walls and dykes, the Dutch are to let large areas of their flat farmland revert to bog in an effort to re-establish wild bird and animal life.

Agriculture Minister Gerrit Braks said on Monday the government wanted to develop about 50,000 hectares (125,000 acres) of farmland into nature reserves over the next 30 years, increasing the national reserve area by one-third.

Farmers will be paid market rates for environmentally-important land and particular emphasis will be placed on wetlands, important for migrating birds.

The government has bought up wild areas and turned them into reserves in the past but this is the first time it has sponsored turning farmland back to its natural state, officials said. (Reuter)

UNITED NATIONS: Singer Olivia Newton-John, named a UN goodwill ambassador for the environment on Monday, said she became interested in the subject when she realised her daughter would inherit a world "that I wasn't terribly proud of."

The British-born entertainer told a news conference she wanted to help people realise they had the power to make changes in their everyday lives to overcome environmental problems.

"I am not a scientist, but I can tell people that they can make a difference," she said before being presented with a certificate of appointment by the executive director of the Nairobi-based UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Mostafa Tolba.

MADRID: The International Press Institute (IPI) urged the Spanish government on Monday to pardon a popular sports broadcaster who faces four months in jail for insulting a regional parliamentarian.

The IPI said the sentence against Jose Maria Garcia, an outspoken radio reporter widely known as Superseme, had worrying implications for freedom of speech in Spain. The sentence has caused an outcry in Spain, and journalists' associations as well as the main opposition Partido Popular (PP) have asked for a pardon.

Garcia was found guilty of contempt of the regional Parliament of Aragon after charging in 1987 that Jose Luis Roca, a member of the parliament and then president of the Spanish Football Federation, had fiddled his expenses. (Reuter)

EVANSTON, Illinois: Edna McRae, a ballet teacher who earned national recognition for her work for the Jeffrey Ballet Company and with child dancers, has died. She was 88.

Miss McRae died Thursday at the senior citizens' residence where she lived in this Chicago suburb.

The Chicago native studied in London and Paris before opening a ballet school in Chicago in 1925. The school became one of the places training dance companies would take lessons when in the area.

After retiring in 1964, she directed the New York-based Jeffrey Ballet Company's West Coast scholarship courses. She was also associate director in charge of children for the annual Nutcracker Production at Chicago's Arle Crown Theatre for seven years until 1973. (AP)

INDO, California: An explosion ripped through a bank early Monday, engulfing the building in flames.

It was the third such blast in the region in five weeks.

Firefighters doused the blaze about six hours after the 3:15 am blast at the one-story security Pacific branch, police said. There were no injuries reported and most of the money that the explosion scattered in the parking lot was recovered.



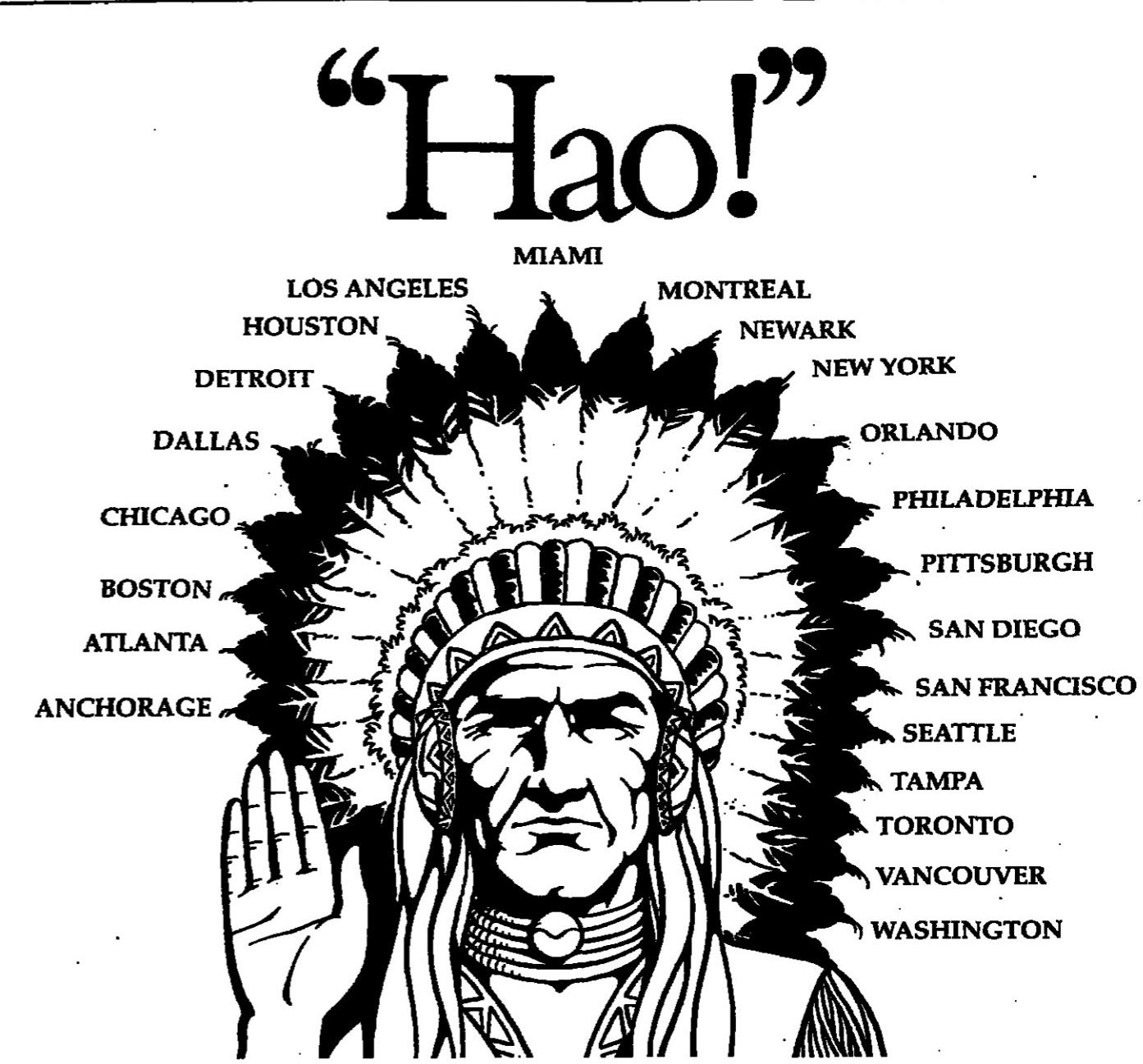
Yelena Boznyakova from Brest in Byelorussia, USSR, (shown top) won the title of Supermodel-90 at the All-Union model contest held in Moscow June 11. Below, Boznyakova poses with French fashion designer Tiere Muglair on June 11. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mom killed for calling son lazy

PENNSYLVANIA: June 12, (UPI): A man was being held without bail yesterday for allegedly killing his mother with a piece of exercise equipment after she accused him of being a "lazy, unemployed drug addict," police said.

Police said Raymond Winbush, 32, of the city's Germantown section, hit his mother, Mabel Winbush, 64, with a heavy metal muscle-developing device on May 30, immediately following her remark.

In a statement to police, Winbush said he stuffed his mother's body in a sleeping bag, authorities said.



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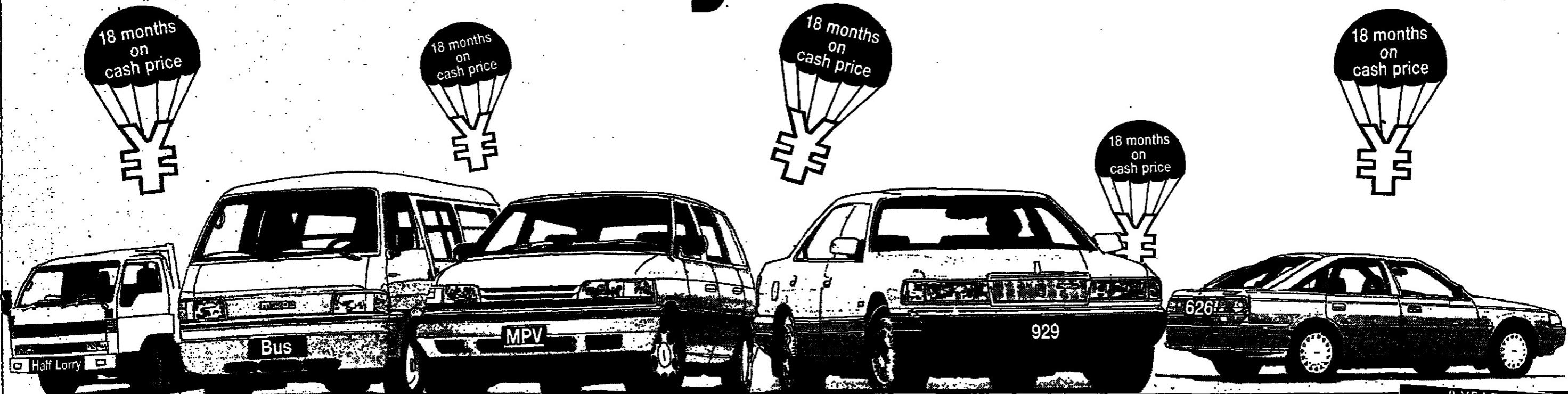
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Chamorro considering cuts

President Violeta Chamorro is considering a 40 per cent reduction in Nicaragua's Army, which under the former Sandinista government grew to be the largest in Central America, military and diplomatic sources said on Monday.

The military sources, who asked not to be identified, said a plan expected to be announced this week by Chamorro will bring a gradual 40 per cent cut in the 40,000-man permanent army.

At the height of the war against the US-backed Contra rebels, the popular Sandinista Army also

included an additional 30,000 conscripts. But the number of draftees serving in the army has fallen since Chamorro, upon taking office in April, suspended the obligatory two-year military service.

Managua-based diplomats also said Chamorro was thought to be considering a cut in the army of upwards of 40 per cent. The plan is also said to include a provision for the resignation of top army officer General Humberto Ortega, the older brother of former president and Sandinista leader Daniel

Ortega.

Above: Contra rebels wait in line to surrender arms.

Over the past weekend, several army officers who said they did not want to serve under a non-Sandinista government or who wanted to study were granted discharges from the army, the military sources said. They said the discharges were the first part of the yet-to-be-announced military reduction. (Reuter wirephoto)

Leading tradesman abducted in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Bolivia, June 12. (AP): Jorge Lonsdale, one of Bolivia's leading businessmen, was abducted yesterday by hooded men and women who shot and seriously injured his driver, police said.

There was no immediate word of any demand by the abductors, police said.

Lonsdale, widely considered one of the country's richest men, is president of the Peruvian-Bolivian Chamber of Commerce and former president of the confederation of private Bolivian businessmen.

He owns a Coca-Cola bottling plant and a distillery, is president of the La Paz-based Bolivar Football Team, and is a partner in the newly-launched La Razon newspaper. He has not been publicly identified with any political party. The chauffeur, who is being treated at a local clinic for two bullet wounds, told police the kidnappers spoke with a foreign accent that could be Peruvian.

The hooded kidnappers intercepted Lonsdale's vehicle near downtown La Paz and fired several shots at his driver. After seizing the businessman, they drove away in stolen vehicles, which were later found by police several blocks away.

"It is an attempt against the climate of peace that exists in Bolivia," said Oscar Reid, head of the ruling leftist Revolutionary Movement Party. "Bolivia is an island of tranquility in the region; this type of violence is not common to our country."

A naval attack at the Peruvian embassy in La Paz was gunned down in January last year by a man and a woman who were later captured in Peru and identified as members of the Shining Path guerrilla movement.

In May of last year, two Mormon missionaries were murdered by members of the ultra-left Zarate Wilka group. Several members of the group, including some involved in the murders, are now in jail in La Paz.

Otherwise, Bolivia has been spared the violence found in the neighbouring countries of Peru and Colombia, where kidnappings and murders are almost a daily occurrence.

■ Chile: Chile agreed in a pact with the United States yesterday to pay indemnities for the 1976 car-bomb slaying of exiled diplomat Orlando Letelier and a US woman in Washington.

An international commission will determine how much money the Chilean government must pay to the families of Letelier and his assistant, Ronni Moffitt.

Chile agreed to make the payment "without admitting or taking a position on the Chilean state's responsibility" for the killing, the two countries said in a joint written declaration.

■ Dominican Republic: President Joaquin Balaguer yesterday was declared the winner in Dominican Republic presidential elections, defeating his closest rival by a narrow margin.

Fujimori optimistic

Won't negotiate with rebels

LIMA, June 12. (Reuter): Peru's President-elect Alberto Fujimori, vowed yesterday not to negotiate with armed guerrillas and expressed confidence that he would put his country's crippled economy back on its feet.

A day after his stunning victory in Sunday's presidential elections, Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, said he would tackle inflation without cutting workers' spending power and fight terrorism and the drug war without the help of foreign troops.

"I think there are solutions to all the problems," he said.

"I am completely optimistic that the grave problems confronting Peru can be overcome. I am not afraid of any of the problems."

Fujimori's task is staggering. Peru is in the grip of a 10-year campaign by Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas, the economy is in chaos and the drug industry grows 60 per cent of the world's coca — the raw material for cocaine.

Fujimori vowed not to negotiate with armed guerrillas.

"There will be no dialogue with those who are carrying arms," he said. He added that he would extend the role of the army, which would now also be expected to help rebuild the zones in the interior hit hardest by the guerrilla insurgency.

Former agronomist and university rector who was a political unknown until a couple of months ago, Fujimori overwhelmed his opponent, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, in Sunday's election. Official results will not be ready for days.

But unofficial exit polls gave Fujimori a 20 per cent point advantage and Vargas Llosa, fronting a coalition of centrist and rightist parties, accepted defeat on Sunday night.

Some Vargas Llosa diehards, however, have been reluctant to grant Fujimori his victory.

About 300 of the novelist's supporters, many of them chanting "coup, coup, coup" gathered outside Vargas Llosa's home last night to demand the military step in to block Fujimori from power.

"We're going to get rid of Fujimori and send him back to Japan," said one of the demonstrators.

"All the dirty, ignorant and illiterate people of this country voted for the Oriental but we, the people with culture, are not going to let him come to power," said another.

Fujimori shown waving to supporters in Lima. June 10. (Reuter wirephoto)

Banks bet on Trump's skill



Donald Trump

NEW YORK, June 12. (AP): Donald Trump's major bankers are betting the king of glitz casinos and real estate can strengthen his cash-strapped empire under a tentative debt restructuring deal.

But some analysts say the flamboyant developer, whose marital as well as financial troubles have been gossip-table talk, may have to pay dearly for the breathing room by giving creditors greater control over his holdings.

Several major banks agreed over the weekend to extend \$60 million in new loans to Trump and suspend interest payments on \$2 billion in outstanding debt, banking sources familiar with the talks said yesterday.

In exchange, Trump promised to pledge as collateral some of his remaining real estate and casino assets that aren't otherwise committed to secure loans, said the sources, who spoke on condition they not be named.

Those assets include the Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the Trump Tower building in Manhattan, they said.

Trump also may have agreed to forfeit equity in other properties in return for the suspension of interest payments, and to make changes in his lavish, high-profile lifestyle, according to a

Pan Am: Lack of evidence

WASHINGTON, June 12. (AP): The Justice Department said yesterday it lacked evidence to file charges in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103, although it reported making "significant progress" in its investigation.

The statement contrasted with optimism expressed last month by Federal Bureau of Investigation director William Sessions, who told reporters he was confident the investigation would be successfully completed.

The Justice department issued the statement in Washington after Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, beginning a six-day trip in Europe, met in Edinburgh, Scotland, with top Scottish law enforcement officials about the case.

Law enforcement authorities believe that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, planted a bomb that was traced to a suitcase recovered after the blast.

Thornburgh, who met yesterday with Scottish Lord Advocate Peter Fraser, plans to travel on to Stockholm for discussions with Swedish officials about the case.

The banks hope to give Trump more time to restructure his operations while he waits out New York City's real estate slump and the downturn in the Atlantic City gambling market, analysts said.

Ringleaders arrested

Alien-smuggling operation uncovered

FAIRHOPE, Alabama, June 12. (AP): Federal agents have charged 62 Chinese citizens with being illegal aliens smuggled into the country as part of a scheme linked to deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Two alleged ringleaders also were arrested. Federal agents said a probe uncovered a multimillion-dollar alien-smuggling operation run by officials linked to Noriega.

While prosecutors have no firm evidence linking Noriega or his lieutenants to the ring, "there's a real strong possibility" they were involved, said US

customs agent Gary Small. Noriega is awaiting trial on drug charges in Florida.

Immigration officials said last week that tens of thousands of immigrants had paid Noriega millions of dollars to use his nation as an illegal gateway to the United States and Canada.

US Immigration and Naturalization officials said authorities had enough evidence to indict Noriega, but didn't want to interfere with the drug case.

The alien-smuggling operation hit yesterday charged Chinese citizens \$10,000 to \$20,000 each to

get into the United States, said customs and INS officials.

Authorities said the operation could have netted its organizers more than \$200 million.

An estimated 95,000 Chinese live in Panama, and about 35,000 want to come to the United States, INS agent Henry Beyard said.

The 62, arrested in two groups after landing at the airport in this southern Alabama yesterday and Saturday, were believed to have been headed for Mobile, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta, Detroit and other major cities.

Stern warning to US officials

Poindexter sentence

WASHINGTON, June 12. (Reuters): Former White House adviser John Poindexter faces a six-month prison term for Iran-Contra felonies in a stern warning to government officials that they cannot put their private views of the national interest above the law.

Poindexter, the highest-ranking member of the Reagan administration to face trial in the scandal over the plan to sell arms to Iran and funnel the profits to Nicaraguan rebels, is also the only one of seven Iran-Contra felons to be punished with jail time.

The stony-faced retired admiral remains free for 10 days following sentencing on Monday, while his lawyers prepare his appeal. He was found guilty in federal court on April 7.

Poindexter made no comment in court and has never shown any remorse for his part in the Iran-Contra



Poindexter greets supporters on his way to court on June 11 in Washington. (Reuter wirephoto)

French minister backs call

Reopen brothels

PARIS, June 12. (Reuters): A French government minister backed a leading woman politician today in demanding that France reopen its once-renowned brothels — closed 44 years ago by a feminist campaigner.

Bernard Kouchner said in an open letter that brothels should be legalised again to help contain AIDS.

"We should prefer to have the commerce of love take place somewhere decent rather than behind a filthy bush," Kouchner, minister for humanitarian affairs, said in the letter published in Le Figaro.

The availability of water and regular medical checks on women working in brothels would help half the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids), he said.

Kouchner, a junior, but high-profile minister, mainly co-ordinates French disaster aid.

Former health minister Michele Barzach last week suggested bringing back legal whorehouses as a means of combating Aids, touching off a debate among leading politicians, police chiefs and medical experts.

Aids has hit France harder than any other West European nation and there is growing concern about infection from transvestite prostitutes often drug users.



Barry leaves US District Court with his mother after the sixth day of jury selection on June 10. (Reuter wirephoto)

No plea deal, says Barry

WASHINGTON, June 12. (UPI): Mayor Marion Barry batted aside persistent reports he would publicly abandon plans for a fourth mayoral term in

order to halt his federal drug and perjury trial, saying, "there's no plea bargaining going on."

As jury selection began its second week yesterday, Barry adamantly denied widespread news reports he was seeking a plea agreement with federal prosecutors to avoid a trial on 14 drug and perjury charges.

"There's no plea bargaining going on, there never has been," Barry said yesterday at the end of day six in his trial's jury selection process.

When asked about his political future, he only

said reporters, "there will be a press conference when I have something to say — next week, next month."

The Washington Post reported today that Barry, no longer hopeful of a possible deal with prosecutors, informed 10 close supporters and aides of his decision on the November elections at a meeting Sunday.

The move to abandon his campaign, an unidentified source told the newspaper, would convey to potential jurors the image that he was being forced out of politics by the federal government.

"There is no question that he's going to get out," a source who attended the meeting said. "It (the announcement) will be soon."

Vote on Meech accord

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland, June 12. (Reuters): Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells, the last provincial leader in Canada still opposed to an accord recognizing French-speaking Quebec as a distinct society, said yesterday he would leave the pact's fate in the hands of his legislators.

Wells' announcement places the accord, named after the Quebec resort of Meech Lake where it was originally hammered out, in serious jeopardy as its survival depends on the unanimous approval of all the provinces.

Wells did not say when the vote would take place, but it appears he will hold it very close to the accord's June 23 ratification deadline to give the legislators time to consult with their constituents.

Canada's nine other premiers have agreed to ratify the accord by June 23 to mollify Quebec and contain its separatist movement, but Wells refused to be cowed by the threat that its failure might lead to the dissolution of the confederation.

Oil tanker begins to buckle

Fire-fighters race to cool the deck for foam application

GALVESTON, Texas, June 12. (AP): Coast guard officials said today that the fire-ravaged supertanker in the Gulf of Mexico was beginning to buckle as firefighters raced to cool the searing deck to allow use of fire-smothering foam on the vessel.

"We don't believe the structure is going to be able to take much more of this intense heat," said coast guard petty officer Howard Holmes. "The integrity of the vessel is definitely being threatened."

As waves broke over the rear of the Mega Borg carrying 38 million gallons (144 million litres) of oil, Holmes said a part of the Norwegian ship showed signs of buckling because of the intense 900-degree-Fahrenheit (492 degrees Celsius) blaze. The shifting cargo and the continuous stream of water being poured on the hull.

More oil, some of it ablaze, spilled into the water about 57 miles (92 kms) southeast of Galveston. Coast guard officials estimated that as of Monday as much as 100,000 gallons (380,000 litres) of light crude has leaked.

The foaming operation was delayed Monday because six fireboats spraying water couldn't keep the tanker's deck cool enough to prevent a flash fire or new explosions. Fireboats continued pouring water on the hull today.

The stern has dropped more than 60 feet (18 metres) since the Norwegian tanker was crippled early Saturday by explosions and fire. The drop indicated either that the cargo had shifted or the ship was taking water, officials said.

The dropping stern "increases the danger of sinking but only incrementally," coast guard chief petty officer Todd Nelson said. "We are not talking right now about sinking."

Bob Schuller, a naval architect in Houston, said the dropping added pressure on the ship's structure. He said he did not know the extent of damage but speculated the pressure could crack the ship or sink it.

The Mega Borg carries more than three times as much oil as was spilled by the Exxon Valdez off Alaska in March 1989 in the nation's worst oil spill.

Authorities, however, noted the oil spilled in Alaska was heavy crude, which doesn't dissipate nearly as rapidly as the light crude aboard the Mega Borg. Also, much of the oil spilling off Texas was being consumed by fire.

The initial explosions occurred Saturday as the tanker was transferring some of its cargo of African light crude to a smaller vessel. Two of the 41 crewmen died; two were missing and presumed dead and 37 were injured, none seriously.

Cruise ship

Oil spill threatens Cape Cod

BOSTON, June 12. (AP): Cleanup crews yesterday anxiously watched choppy seas and stiff winds delay efforts to unload thousands of gallons of fuel that threaten to spill from the torn hull of the cruise ship Bermuda Star.

The 617-foot (188-metre) vessel was freed Sunday night from a rocky ledge off Cape Cod almost 13 hours after it strayed too close to shore and ran aground in dense fog.

Divers found a 90-by-2-foot (27-by-6-metre) tear on the ship's bottom after it dropped anchor about 3 miles (4.8 kilometres) from the ledge in Buzzard's Bay. The rip exposed four tanks holding more than 110,000 gallons (418,000 litres) of fuel oil, the coast guard said.

About 1,500 gallons (5,700 litres) of fuel leaked before a containment boom was put around the ship, and the tear left the potential for more oil to spill, the coast guard said.

Up to 1,000 gallons (3,800 litres) of fuel washed ashore at Nauset Island in Buzzards Bay yesterday, coast guard Cmdr Larry Doyle said at an afternoon news conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Forest fires rage in Greece

KAPANDRITI, Greece, June 12. (Reuters): A forest fire which officials blamed on arson swept down on this resort north of Athens yesterday, burning five houses and a paper factory. No casualties were reported.

About 20 fire engines and three fire-fighting airplanes fought the blaze across 1.5 km (one mile) front near Kapandriti, a resort in pine forests 34 km (21 miles) north of Athens.

"Strong winds make it very difficult to control the fire which is certainly due to arson," a fire brigade officer said.

Telephone lines and electricity were cut and houses evacuated in the town, which was partly destroyed by a similar fire last year.

Similar fires have scorched the islands of Crete and Evia, where the fire department estimated about 1,500 acres (600 hectares) of forest have been burned out.



Fire boats pump water onto the raft end of a slowly sinking supertanker Mega Borg, on Monday, as salvage crews make a desperate attempt to save the stricken tanker 57 miles southeast of Galveston, Texas. (Reuter wirephoto)

"It certainly isn't good," Holmes said. "That's why it's so important this foam application works."

"If they don't get the fire out we could be in for a disastrous situation," he said.

Holmes said he was uncertain how extensive the damage was. Crews had not yet determined when they would try to apply the foam in an attempt to smother the fire, he said.

Yesterday, the coast guard said there was a slightly increased chance the nearly 886 foot (270 metre) ship would sink in the Gulf of Mexico after its rear dipped below the surface.

Italy to withdraw candidacy

ROME, June 12. (Reuters): Italy bowed to a world-wide protest campaign today and withdrew Venice as a candidate to host the Expo 2000 world fair.

The decision was announced to parliament by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, two days before a Paris-based organisation meets to choose Venice, Hanover or Toronto to host the world fair.

A majority of Italian politicians and Venice lovers around the world have said the ancient canal city would collapse under the strain of hosting hundreds of thousands of extra tourists if the Expo 2000 were staged there.

Andreotti told the Senate (upper house of parliament) that the government "has reached the conviction not to confirm to the international exhibitions office the candidacy of Venice as a site for Expo 2000."

A motion asking the government to withdraw support for Venice was due to have been debated by both houses of parliament tomorrow.

Despite opposition at home and abroad, the Italian government, enthusiastically backed by big business, had till now maintained its bid for Venice as the star attraction of a region-wide Expo 2000.

Andreotti's announcement preempted a decision in Paris on Thursday that defenders of the historic, 1,200-year-old city had seen as crucial to its future.

Opponents of the fair say Venice could collapse under the strain. Some 175,000 more visitors than the usual peak of 60,000 were expected to visit the city daily if the four-month fair was held there.

17, an elusive group specialising in bombings and political assassinations, which has killed 14 Greeks and Americans since 1975.

November 17 said its latest raid was against a decision last month by the new conservative government to close down or sell to the private sector 49 debt-ridden state firms in order to reduce huge public deficits.

"We are now waiting for the real hit. Embassies, state and police buildings, private companies, aircraft and oil refineries are among possible targets," a senior police officer told Reuters.

It was the first rocket attack by November

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I'll spare civilians in rebel defence

Army will not kill innocents: Doe

MONROVIA: June 12. (Reuters): Liberian President Samuel Doe, his army accused of killing civilians as it tries to fend off a rebel assault, says he will not kill "innocent people" to defeat the invasion.

"I will not join (rebel leader) Charles Taylor to kill innocent people, kill children," Doe said in a television interview today.

"What we have been trying to do is to make sure that the army do not kill innocent people... rebels are only doing the killing and destruction."

The interview, granted to two US television networks and filmed by state television, was given as Doe's government sent a delegation to meet Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia for peace talks in neighbouring Sierra Leone.



Rebel forces belonging to Charles Taylor display arms as they stand to attention after retaking the town of Buchanan in a picture taken June 6.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

America

American woman confesses: An American microbiologist, identified at court as Baby Girl Landau, 41, confessed Tuesday that she had tried to smuggle about three kilogrammes (6.6 pounds) of heroin to New York, police said.

Ms Landau, of New York City, told the court a day after her arrest at Larnaca airport that she was offered \$30,000 by two Lebanese men in return for carrying the drugs to New York, the police report said.

Police were looking for the men, but the report did not disclose their names.

Ms Landau was arrested just before boarding a flight for Athens and New York. Police found the drugs hidden in plastic bags taped to her legs and hips. (AP)

Columbia, back for repairs: For only the fourth time in 36 flights, US space officials on Tuesday moved a space shuttle off the launch pad for repairs.

Shuttle Columbia was hauled back to its assembly building for repairs to a fuel leak that grounded the ship only six hours before blast-off last month.

The countdown was stopped on May 29 when launch pad sensors detected hydrogen propellant spewing into the shuttle's engine area. The shuttle could have exploded if the valve had broken in flight.

Columbia's 10-day mission with a \$148 million cargo of telescopes called the astro observatory has been postponed at least until mid-August. (Reuters)

Problems nag Hubble telescope: Problems continue to nag the Hubble space telescope nearly seven weeks after its launching.

The telescope still vibrates each time it passes from day to night and night to day, and it loses its electronic memory whenever it moves over a region of Brazil known as the South Atlantic anomaly.

The problems can be overcome, Jean Olivier, one of NASA's top telescope engineers, said on Monday.

The vibration of the giant solar arrays, which convert sunlight into electricity, has been plaguing engineers as they go through a painstaking eight-month check and calibration period. (AP)

Nuclear test at Nevada: Scientists on Wednesday plan to detonate the second announced underground nuclear weapons test of the year at the Nevada test site, the Department of Energy said in Las Vegas.

The test, with a yield of between 20 and 150 kilotons, may be felt in highrise buildings as far away as Las Vegas, 85 miles (136 kilometres) from the blast site, the DOE said. Workers were warned not to be in precarious positions at the time of detonation.

Barring weather problems or technical difficulties, the DOE said the weapon will be detonated at 9 am (1600 GMT), some 2,200 feet (671 metres) beneath the surface of the Pahute Mesa. (AP)

Americans favour environ curbs: Four of five Americans say pollution threatens the quality of their lives, and most favour a tough countermeasure that would outlaw disposable diapers and cancer-causing pesticides, a poll has found.

Respondents to the National Media General-Associated Press survey favoured an array of new restrictions, including bans on foam plastic fast-food containers and excessive packaging of consumer products.

Of those who live in neighbourhoods where recycling is not mandatory, nine in 10 said they would support such a rule. And nearly seven in 10 supported creation of an elected post in each state to enforce environmental law. (AP)

Asia

Perth movement against Asians: A Perth district court was told Monday that the white supremacy group Australian Nationalists Movement (ANM) was a neo-Nazi organisation that had planned a campaign of violence to drive Asians out of Australia.

Crown counsel Graeme Scott told the court that the organisation began its campaign in Perth where it terrorised Asians and vandalised property. He said the group had operated out of a paramilitary-style bunker east of Perth which had a shooting range, an arsenal of firearms and protective sandbagging.

Scott was speaking on the first day of the trial of ANM leader Jack Van Tongeren and five of his followers. Six, described by Scott as the group's hierarchy, face 197 individual charges for a string of alleged offences, including the firebombing of Chinese restaurants. (AP)

Japanese discuss sales tax: The Japanese parliament, Diet, Tuesday started discussing proposals for either amending or cancelling the sales tax imposed in April last year.

Premier Toshiki Kaifu told parliament that he was determined to amend the tax law and that he will strongly support a government proposal to amend that law.

At the same time, the Socialist Party and other opposition parties tabled a number of proposals aimed at cancelling the tax. (Kuna)

New China anti-crime campaign: Public Security Minister Wang Fang announced Monday that the central government has ordered a new campaign against crime, focusing on murder and other serious offences.

A large number of "suspected serious offenders" already have been detained since the campaign began in late May, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Wang as saying. He did not give figures.

The number of official media reports of arrests and executions has increased sharply in the past two weeks leading to suspicion that such a campaign had been launched. (AP)

Crackdown on grave robbing: Government officials have called for a crackdown on persistent grave robbing across China by organised gangs that steal artifacts from ancient tombs and sometimes blast their way in with explosives. The state-run press reported Tuesday.

The semi-official China news service, quoting police and officials of the national cultural relics department, reported that tomb break-ins and grave robbing "have spread unchecked for many years and have become rampant recently."

...

Call to cut off fingers: A loyal member of Kenya's ruling party says people who call for a multi-party system by making two-finger salutes should have the offending fingers cut off.

In recent months, a two-finger salute in Kenya, which has a single political party, has come to signal a call for pluralism.



Cachalla returns

Veteran African National Congress activist Molvi Cachalla returned to South Africa on Monday after 26 years in India. He worked closely with ANC leader Nelson Mandela in anti-apartheid campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hashimoto advocates

Have more babies

TOKYO, June 12, (UPI): Japanese women have too much education and too few babies, the nation's finance minister reportedly told his fellow cabinet members today.

During a cabinet discussion on Japan's falling birthrate, Ryutaro Hashimoto blamed the trend on women's increasing tendency to seek higher education, according to local news reports.

Hashimoto reportedly suggested the government limit access to higher education as a way to reverse the birthrate trend.

Officials in the Finance Ministry deflected inquiries, but an official in the Health and Welfare Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity, told United Press International the reports were accurate.

Japan, with one of the lowest birthrates in the world, now has only 1.57 children per household. Less than a fifth of the population is under 20, and the proportion is falling steadily.

Malaysia scraps dam project: Malaysia said Tuesday it is scrapping plans for a 10-billion-ringgit (\$3.6 billion) hydroelectric project that environmental groups said would have wiped out rare forests and animals.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told the international conference on conservation of tropical biodiversity that the decision was for the sake of the environment, even though the project would have supplied Malaysia with large amounts of cheap electricity.

The project, first announced in 1985, called for damming the Rajang river, which would have flooded 637 square kilometres (246 square miles) in Sarawak state on Borneo Island, forcing the evacuation of people in the area.

Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups protested. (AP)

Africa

Africa on road to disaster: The head of the UN food agency warned Africa Monday it was on the path to total destruction of its natural resources.

Edouard Saoutchik, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), told an agency conference on Africa that the continent faced "an extremely serious threat of environmental, continent-wide environmental decline with the inevitable outcome in the long term of total depletion."

In an opening speech to delegates from 51 states, he said there was a widening gap between agricultural production, which grew at two per cent over the last decade, and population, which grew at three per cent.

Mozambique peace talks: Mozambican officials and a rebel leader arrived in neighbouring Malawi on Tuesday for their first direct peace talks aimed at ending a devastating 13-year-war, the national news agency reported.

Afonso Domingos, commander of the Mozambique National Resistance, arrived in Blantyre, Malawi's capital, the Ama news agency said in a dispatch from its correspondent in Malawi.

The Mozambican government delegation includes Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi and Transport Minister Armando Guebaza, both members of the political bureau of the ruling Frelimo Party, Ama said. (AP)

Call to cut off fingers: A loyal member of Kenya's ruling party says people who call for a multi-party system by making two-finger salutes should have the offending fingers cut off.

In recent months, a two-finger salute in Kenya, which has a single political party, has come to signal a call for pluralism.

...

Police song:

A singer from the Armed Police song and dance unit, sings out a tune honouring "Lei Feng," the socialist hero, during a street performance yesterday. The show is part of an ongoing effort to enlist support for the Asian Games scheduled for September as the government hopes to woo back tourists lost after last year's turmoil. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thais patch rift but conflict remains

Chatichai leaves for US despite possible crisis

BANGKOK, June 12, (AP): The government and military have patched a threatening rift exposed by the abrupt resignation from the cabinet of the country's most powerful general, but underlying tensions remain. Soldiers, officials and diplomats said today.

Gen. Chatichai Yongsayayudh resigned yesterday as defence minister and deputy prime minister as Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhaven was preparing for an important official visit to the United States.

Over the past week, Chatichai's oppon-

ents have accused him and his family of corruption. This came in response to Chatichai's accusations of massive corruption in the government.

In his resignation letter, Chatichai said: "Present circumstances do not allow me to carry on serving my country in the spirit I intended."

Chatichai left for the United States earlier today despite a possible crisis caused by the resignation.

Yesterday morning, thousands of officers and men had rallied at army bases

in Bangkok and the provinces in support of Chatichai.

There were worries the army might attempt a coup, although some military sources insisted this method of power transfer was a thing of the past in Thailand.

The Bangkok Post's editorial said Chatichai's resignation "precipitated a crisis that threatened the government's political stability" and urged him and military commanders to show restraint.

The nation, in a front-page commentary, criticised the military show of force as

"undemocratic" and "a serious threat to our fragile democracy."

Before leaving, Chatichai held a series of hastily arranged meetings with top military commanders in an effort to defuse the situation. He also obtained an audience with constitutional monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who is considered the stabilising force in Thai politics.

The generals pledged their support for Chatichai, but some analysts warned the issue was likely to resurface in one week when Chatichai returns from Washington.

Jiang calls for Taiwan dialogue

BEIJING, June 12, (AP): Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin said yesterday that direct trade and communications links should be established with Taiwan before the two sides hold formal talks on reunification.

He also insisted such talks should be between the communists and the rival Nationalist Party on Taiwan, rather than between the two governments, as Taiwan officials proposed.

Jiang's speech on reunification with Taiwan was the communist leadership's first detailed response to last month's proposal by President Lee Teng-hui of the Nationalist government on Taiwan for government contacts in trade, academia, science and other fields.

The Nationalists have ruled Taiwan, an island province of China, since fleeing there in 1949. They were defeated by the communists in a civil war on the mainland.

For four decades, the Nationalists maintained a policy called the "three nos" — no contact, no compromise and no negotiations.

Lee's proposal to drop that policy was considered a major initiative in Taiwan, but Beijing's only immediate response was a curt comment by the official Xinhua news agency that Lee was trying to create "two Chinas."

Jiang's remarks acknowledge the concession Lee was making.

"We appreciate his comments," Jiang told a meeting of the United Front Department, which is charged with trying to persuade non-communist forces to work with the communists. Xinhua carried excerpts of the speech.

Jiang said the first step should be establishment of direct mail, trade, air and shipping links across the Taiwan Straits.

"The specific problems that emerge in the exchange process may be dealt with through consultations between appropriate authorities," he said.

Only then should formal party-to-party negotiations on reunification be started, and other parties, social groups and individuals should be consulted and even attended, Jiang said.

SINGAPORE, June 12, (AP): A change in government style is promised for Singapore when Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew steps aside after 31 robust years.

Plans call for first Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, 48, to take over later this year, sometime after Lee's 67th birthday on Sept. 16.

Using a consultative leadership style, Goh says, he expects to preside over a more open society with the goal of making Singapore a "great small nation".

Lee is not passing completely from the scene, however, and his influence is expected to remain intact. Goh intends to have him in the cabinet as a senior minister without portfolio.

"Those who believe that when I have left the government as prime minister that I've gone into permanent retirement really should have their heads examined," Lee once told a gathering of his People's Action Party.

"Even from my sickbed, even if you are going to lower me into the grave and I feel that something is going wrong, I'll get up."

The Cambridge-educated lawyer took charge in 1959. Modern Singapore began its

independent existence with no

resources, no industry, bitter racial divisions and potentially unfriendly neighbours.

Lee helped forge an identity for his polyglot state, uniting an ethnic Chinese majority regarded with suspicion by its Muslim neighbours in Malaysia and Indonesia, with sizeable Malay and Indian minorities.

He demanded discipline to overcome hardships. Obedience, hard work, cleanliness, thrift and the profit motive all came into play as a shabby British colonial outpost was transformed. Now it is a flourishing banking and commercial centre with high-tech industries, first-class education and glitzy shopping centres.

Lee's government enjoys a reputation for honesty, efficiency and a strong sense of direction. Standards are high and there is a strict moral code.

Tipping, jaywalking, littering, discource and failing to flush public toilets after use are officially denounced. Those suspected of more serious transgressions such as subversion and drug abuse can expect no mercy.

28 drug traffickers have been hanged.

Bernard Kouchner, who has travelled widely in his post overseeing French relief programmes, also plans to visit Malawi during a six-day trip starting tomorrow, his office said.

The UDF questioned whether De Klerk fully controlled the white-led security forces.

France's secretary of state for humanitarian aid will travel to South Africa this week to meet government and opposition leaders, the first official visit by a French cabinet minister since 1975.

They staged demonstrations on the streets around the centre and vowed in leaflets to fight to have the facility closed down for good, Yonhap said.

The domestic Yonhap news agency said 400 students stormed the centre at about 5:30 am and threw some 400 firebombs. They were driven away in 15 minutes by Korean police who fired tear gas.

The students ran out of a park and back streets and dashed some 70 yards (60 m) toward the building shouting "close down the cultural centre" and "leave the (ruling) Democratic Liberal Party," Yonhap said.

They staged demonstrations on the streets around the centre and vowed in leaflets to fight to have the facility closed down for good, Yonhap said.

The UDF's spokesman, Tom Langley, told parliament the visit by the 10-member delegation from June 9 to 20 was blatant interference in South Africa's domestic affairs.

A board of inquiry into the 1987 crash of a South African Airways Boeing 747 at the cost of 159 lives found today the aircraft-type's anti-fire measures are inadequate, unacceptably risky and necessitate a design change if not altered.

The inquiry, under Supreme Court Judge Cecil Margo, advised the combat configuration of the 747-400 "is prohibited as creating an unacceptable risk to life and property," should the Seattle-based Boeing Co. decide against recommended fire-protection changes.

The number of seasonal workers allowed into the country for nine months each year to work mainly in the construction and catering sectors will rise by 7,000 to around 163,000.

Other short-term work permits will rise, but long-term permits will remain at around 11,000.

The new rules, set to take effect later this year, were aimed particularly at finding health care workers and technical specialists, it said.

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Gorby suggests Nato change

Dual membership for Germany proposed

MOSCOW, June 12. (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev suggested today that a change in Nato doctrine and strategy could ease the way for a united Germany to join the Western alliance.

Speaking to the Soviet parliament, Gorbachev also proposed that a new unitary German state be linked to both Nato and the East's Warsaw Pact until both were dissolved under a European security accord.

"We would welcome changes to the (Nato) alliance's military doctrine, which was engendered by the cold war," he declared. "Within such a framework, a new solution could be found for ensuring security for a united Germany."

German unity heads agenda

WASHINGTON, June 12. (Reuters): US President George Bush and East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere have agreed that a united Germany should enjoy full sovereignty and be free to choose its own alliance arrangements, the White House said yesterday.

They agreed also that Nato and US forces in Europe would continue to be important as guarantors of stability in Europe, a White House statement said.

"We feel considerable progress has been made," presidential spokesman Marin Fitzwater said when asked if the Soviet Union had softened its resistance to the Western demand that Germany be part of Nato.

The Baker nine points seem to be having some impact... in terms of Soviet understanding that we want to take the kind of steps that would reassure them on the security issue," he added, referring to proposals endorsed by Nato foreign ministers on Thursday at a meeting in Scotland.

The nine points allow Soviet troops to remain in what is now East Germany for a transition period, commits the Western alliance to a second round of conventional arms talks that might limit the size of the German military and pledges to review Nato military strategy forged during the cold war.

Fitzwater said De Maiziere, the first East German leader to meet an American president, told Bush the nine points "were very helpful to the Warsaw Pact countries as they considered their future."

Later, in a speech at Georgetown University, De Maiziere said talks on the unification of Germany just include concerns about security interests of neighbouring countries, primarily Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.



Gorbachev addresses the parliament yesterday about his recent visit to Canada and the US and the result of Moscow session of the Warsaw Pact committee. (Reuter wirephoto)

Summit gained 'huge results'

Gorbachev lauds

MOSCOW, June 12. (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told the nation today that the Washington summit achieved "huge results" in arms control and laid the groundwork for resolving the question of military allegiance of a united Germany.

The hour-long, nationally televised speech to the Supreme Soviet legislature gave Gorbachev the chance to highlight his area of greatest success, foreign policy, rather than domestic policies facing increasing criticism from citizens.

Gorbachev, speaking calmly and smiling frequently, told the legislators that his warm reception in the United States and the signing of a US-Soviet trade agreement were evidence of US faith in his domestic reform programme.

After speaking, he answered questions from deputies for another hour. Later in the day he was expected to meet for the first time with the presidents of the three Baltic republics, who are demanding that Moscow recognize their declarations of independence.

"As a whole, I think huge results were achieved in Washington toward limiting nuclear and conventional weapons," Gorbachev said. "All this has great meaning."



Birendra grants amnesty

KATHMANDU, June 12. (UPI): King Birendra, resolving one of Nepal's lingering questions in its movement toward democratic reform, today granted amnesty for and dropped charges against all people prosecuted for religious activity.

The government then ordered the release of 11 Christians and one Muslim.

"Among those to be released was Charles Mardies, a Nepalese pastor, serving a six year sentence for preaching. Home Ministry spokesman Ram Chandra Paudyal said.

"Twenty people under trial will be released after government withdraws their cases to different courts in the kingdom," the spokesman said. "It will take several days."

The king, "on the recommendation of the prime minister, has granted amnesty to all religious prisoners in view of the new political environment obtaining in the country," a royal palace announcement said.



Baltic leaders

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis (right) and Latvian President Arnold Rutele (left) leave the Lithuanian mission in Moscow for the Kremlin after agreeing to take part in a Council of the Federation meeting. (Reuter wirephoto)

In Washington, President George Bush today shrugged aside Gorbachev's suggestion that a united Germany become an "associate member of both the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) and Warsaw Pact alliances."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking to reporters in Bonn earlier today, also turned a cold shoulder to latest proposal by Gorbachev.

"This is a proposal we do not consider realistic. We reject it," Kohl said.

Bush said Gorbachev's proposal outlined in a speech to the Soviet parliament had been presented during the Soviet leader's five-day visit to Washington from May 31-June 3.

Gorbachev, reformulating an idea aired earlier this year by his Foreign Minister

Eduard Shevardnadze, said a fresh approach by Nato could make it possible for the new German state to play an associate part in both alliances.

This would involve both present German states in maintaining all their obligations under their present alliances, with Bonn's army subject to Nato and the East German Army subject to the new German government, he said.

He told the deputies this could be covered by "a formula of associated membership of the new German state in the two blocs, while they continue to exist. This double membership could be the outline of new European structures."

During a transition period while Nato and the Warsaw Pact transformed themselves, Gorbachev added, Soviet troops would remain on the territory of what is now East Germany.

The "association" proposal, diplomats said, was clearly a moderated version of the Kremlin's original suggestion that the new state belong to both alliances—an idea flatly rejected by the West and by the new East German government.

Gorbachev's remarks followed talks focused on the unity issue in the western Soviet city of Brest yesterday between Shevardnadze and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

But Western diplomats in Moscow familiar with the outcome of the meeting said Gorbachev's comments, in a report on his summit with US President George Bush, did not reflect progress made in Brest.

In Brussels, Nato said today a Soviet suggestion that a United Germany could have a form of associate membership with both the Warsaw Pact and the 16-nation Western alliance did not seem "promising to pursue."

But its response was noticeably more cautious and less hardline than previous reactions to Soviet proposals for resolving the problem of Germany's military status.

The Polish press bitterly criticised the Soviet Union and West Germany today for meeting in the town of Brest, where Nazi German and Soviet troops paraded at the start of World War Two to celebrate their victory over Poland.

Shevardnadze and Genscher met in Brest, on the Soviet border with Poland yesterday to discuss obstacles in the path of German unification.

Oskar Lafontaine has decided against pulling out as the Social Democrats' chancellor candidate, officials said yesterday, as the opposition party struggles to mend a deep split and bolster its chances to win the leadership of a united Germany.

For weeks, the Social Democrats have been feuding over Lafontaine's insistence that the party take a hard line on West Germany's economic merger with East Germany.

The two city governments of Berlin, which tried hard to ignore each other for 40 years, held their first joint sitting today and pledged to make the reunification of the capital of a united Germany.

Meeting in East Berlin's imposing "Red City Hall," the red-brick home of Berlin government from 1860 until division at the end of World War Two, the two administrations said they wanted Berlin to be a "bridge to partnership" in Europe.

Honecker cut off oil, most natural gas and other supplies to Lithuania in an effort to force the country to back off its declaration of independence.

Pruskiene met with Gorbachev May 17 to offer a compromise under which the republic would suspend all acts implementing independence.

Foreign ministers from the Soviet Baltic republics rushed to Moscow today for talks between their presidents and Gorbachev, after failing to win observer status at a human rights meeting.

The former hard-line Com-

munist Party chief and his wife,

Margot, have about 300,000 East German marks in personal sav-

ings, according to attorney

Friedrich Wolff.

23 nations may have chemical weapons programmes: Cheney

WASHINGTON, June 12. (UPI): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said yesterday that 23 foreign countries now have confirmed or suspected chemical warfare programmes and that Iraq is producing missiles capable of reaching Israel.

"Ten years from now, in the year 2000, the number of developing countries producing their own ballistic missiles is expected to be up to 15," Cheney said in a speech to the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee.

"Included among the 15 are such countries as Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria and North Korea," Cheney said, noting that such missiles can carry a variety of warheads, including chemical, biological or nuclear.

"As for chemical and biological weapons, 23 foreign countries have confirmed or suspected chemical warfare programmes and 10 have, or may have, biological warfare programmes," Cheney said.

"Once again, that would include Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and North Korea."

Israel also has a missile programme and is suspected of having a chemical weapons programme.

Pentagon officials declined to list all 23 countries, saying the information from the defence intelligence agency was classified. However, 23 would appear to be an increase over previous public estimates.

In congressional testimony in February 1989, Central Intelligence Agency director William Webster said, "as many as 26 countries may be developing chemical weapons," and director of naval intelligence Thomas Brooks listed these 13 "Third World" nations as developing or having chemical warfare programmes.

Iraq, Iran, China, North Korea, Taiwan, Burma, India, Pakistan, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya.



Relaxing soldier

A Soviet soldier relaxes on a transport carrier on Monday after the state of emergency had been lifted on June 12 which calmed the tension between fighting ethnic factions of Kirghiz and Uzbeks. (Reuter wirephoto)

Situation stabilizing

Kirghiz unrest toll 139

MOSCOW, June 12. (AP): Deaths caused by ethnic unrest between Kirghiz and Uzbeks in Soviet Central Asia have climbed to 139—32 more than was reported Saturday night, Tass reported today.

The report by the official Soviet news agency mentioned only one new clash last night and did not explain how the 32 people were killed. Earlier Tass reports said the unrest was subsiding.

In yesterday's clash, several of the youths were detained after they pelleted police in Kirghizia's capital of Frunze with rocks and bottles, Tass said.

The latest casualty statistics of 139 people killed and 486 wounded were issued by the Kirghiz Interior Ministry, Tass said. On Saturday night state-controlled newspapers and television reported



Demonstrators dispersed

Club-wielding police dispersed about 500 demonstrators outside government headquarters in Bucharest on Monday, where talks were under way between officials and hunger strikers seeking independent TV stations.

There were no official reports or injuries or arrests as hundreds of steel-helmeted paramilitary police, armed with clubs and AK-47 rifles, broke up the anti-communist protesters, who were rallying in support of the hunger strikers.

The hunger strikers have been trying for weeks to open a dialogue with the government to press for a free media and a 10-year ban on former communists holding public office.

The protesters, who have been blocked university

Calfa chosen

Asked to form Czech govt

PRAGUE, June 12. (AP): President Vaclav Havel today asked incumbent premier and ex-communist Marian Calfa to form Czechoslovakia's first democratically elected government in more than 40 years.

Havel designated Calfa after meeting with top leaders of Civic Forum and Public Against Violence, according to a brief statement carried by the state news agency CTK.

The two broad-based movements fought last winter's anti-communist revolution and won last week's elections.

Calfa said that all present agreed that Calfa should be charged with forming the government.

The absence of the Christian Democrats from the talks indicated they might not be

Ceausescu's brother's trial resumes

BUCHAREST, June 12. (AP): The trial of Nicolae Andruș Ceausescu resumed today in a military court in Bucharest with witnesses testifying that he did not shoot at protesters seeking the overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

After the police intervention, the number of protesters swelled to about 1,000, then dwindled again shortly afterward.

"They were clubbing the people who did not want to go from the square... so hard that some of them fell to the ground," said Marian Tanasescu, 34, an engineer (Reuter wirephoto).

Witnesses at an earlier court session had testified that on Dec 21, they saw the defendant approach the crowd with his gun and fire.

Today, however, Stefan Antioch, an officer of the secret police academy who claimed to have seen Ceausescu several times on Dec 21 near the scene of the alleged shooting, told the panel of military judges that he had heard warning salvos, but "Ceausescu did not shoot, and I did not hear him ordering fire."

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MIDEAST/INTERNATIONAL

Radical Iranian Speaker re-elected

NICOSIA, June 12. (AP): The radical Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Mehdî Karroubi, was re-elected yesterday for another one-year term.

His election was a major victory for hardline opponents of President Hashemi Rafsanjani and his rival pragmatic camp.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said 229 members of the 270-seat house attended the meeting, and that 155 of them voted for Karroubi.

It said the other 74 votes went to Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, a former interior

minister, who is also a hardliner.

The fact that both candidates for the position were staunch hardliners underlines the extent of the radicals' power in the Majlis, or Parliament.

After his election last August, Rafsanjani dumped all of the radicals from his cabinet and replaced them with technocrats, many of them Western-educated.

Following that purge, the radicals' power has been concentrated in the Majlis and a number of large revolutionary organisations.

Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a former interior minister who won the Tehran seat in Parliament earlier this year, is known to co-ordinate much of the attack against Rafsanjani's pragmatic government.

The radicals oppose efforts by Rafsanjani to liberalise Iranian society and mend relations with the West to attract investment and advanced technology for the country's limping economy.

A draft bill proposing the merger of Iran's various security forces was discussed in the Parliament today, Tehran Radio reported.

said he would like to cool the fervor of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and channel efforts towards reconstruction of Iran's post-war economy.

The radicals fear any cooling of the revolution. They believe Iran should concentrate on exporting its radical revolution and not worry about its failing economy.

A draft bill proposing the merger of Iran's various security forces was discussed in the Parliament today, Tehran Radio reported.

Sofia students strike

Socialists likely to gain majority in polls

SOFIA, June 12. (AP): University students formed a human chain around Sofia University today and declared a strike over alleged government manipulation of what were billed as Bulgaria's first free elections in 58 years.

The Socialist Party, formerly communists, have governed Bulgaria since 1944 and appeared to be headed for a decisive victory in Sunday's elections.

Official results today showed they won more than twice as many constituency seats as the opposition.



Union Democratic Forces (UDF) supporters flashing the victory signs as they listen to the results of Bulgarian elections outside Sofia University. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Response by PLO on raid inadequate'

WASHINGTON, June 12, (Agencies): Secretary of State James A. Baker III said today the actions of the PLO in the wake of an aborted terrorist attack on an Israeli beach have been inadequate.

But he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the United States has not made any decision on whether to cut off dialogue with the PLO because of the matter.

"We want to weigh matters carefully and do so without the pressure of artificial deadlines," said Baker, noting that suspending talks with the PLO would have far-reaching ramifications on future Middle East peace efforts.

Abu Abbas, a member of the PLO executive committee, claimed responsibility for the attempted seaborne attack.

While the PLO has dissociated itself from the attack, the group's top leaders have given no indication that they intend to take steps to discipline Abu Abbas, and they have not condemned the attack directly, Baker said.

The United States has urged the PLO to take such steps, he said.

So far the PLO's "public and private responses have fallen short of the mark," Baker said.

He said US allies, such as Britain, have interceded with the PLO, asking the Arab group to follow the United States' advice.

Over two dozen members of the Senate have urged the Bush administration to suspend the dialogue with the PLO as a result of the attempted attack.

One US official told Reuters he thought it likely Baker would find a compromise, like suspending the dialogue, rather than break off talks with the PLO completely.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters: "We're pleased to see that they are desisting military action against civilians but we are disappointed that they have not explicitly condemned the Tel Aviv raid and refrained from any public comment on Abu Abbas."

The Movement for Rights and Freedoms, a group favoured by the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks who were persecuted under Zhivkov, won eight constituency seats and three to smaller parties or independent candidates.

The Socialists were also leading in initial results for the remaining 200 seats to be filled according to the proportion of the vote each party receives.

In four of the five districts where results were announced, the Socialists won easily while the UDF won one district, according to Bulgarian state radio quoting returns from the electoral commission. Results from 23 other districts have not yet been released.

The Movement for Rights and Freedoms, a group favoured by the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks who were persecuted under Zhivkov, won eight constituency seats and three to smaller parties or independent candidates.

The drug metastron, which can offer pain relief with one injection for up to six months, is being evaluated in clinical trials in Britain and Canada, but is not expected to become routinely available for some time.

The drug is based on strontium 90, the radioactive element, and has been developed by a Buckinghamshire-based pharmaceutical company in southern England.

The British media said that metastron may also have a role in treating breast cancer. (Kuna)

Former head of Hammer films dies: Sir James Carreras, who as head of Hammer Films produced horror movies that scared the daylights out of a whole generation of filmgoers, has died, according to a family death notice published yesterday. He was 81.

Carreras died peacefully on Saturday of a stroke at his home at Henley-on-Thames, west of London, the notice said.

Carreras built up the Hammer company after World War II, and in the mid 1950s began making the gaudy, low-budget horror films for which the British studio became internationally famous.

He made inexpensive films that were the objects of critical scorn, but developed a strong cult following.

(AP)

I'll fly again

(Continued from Page 1)

blew out of the 18-year-old BAC 1-11 twin-engine jet, and then set himself being sucked out.

He said his first thought was that he had to keep breathing in the thin, cold air. He estimated the temperature outside the plane at 23,000 feet (7,000 metres) was minus 23 to 30 degrees Celsius.

He was recovering from a broken elbow, wrist and thumb, and frostbite in one hand. His jacket, lost during the incident, was found in a field in southern England yesterday.

An investigation into the incident is under way.

Lancaster's wife, Margaret, and father, David, have visited him, as did British Airways chief executive Sir Colin Marshall.

He met privately for an hour yesterday with his rescuers, purser Nigel Oden, steward Simon Roger and stewardess Susan Prince. Smiling and bare-chested in his hospital bed, Lancaster later posed briefly with the trio.

Lancaster was wearing his seat belt when the left cockpit windshield ruptured, but he had removed his shoulder harness after taking off from Birmingham airport in central England. The plane had been en route to Malaga, Spain.

Oden, who was serving tea in the forward galley, dashed into the cockpit and grabbed Lancaster's leg before he disappeared.

The official turnout was 78.3 per cent,

Interior Minister Abdellah Esseikh

said at a news conference. He criticised the boycott organisers for a negative attitude

and said the government had proved its commitment to moving toward multi-party democracy.

Independent candidates ignoring the

boycott were listed on ballots in only 19 of

246 municipal councils.

According to results issued by the

Interior Ministry, independents won 34

seats, including 12 in Monastir, birthplace

of deposed former president Habib Bourguiba. The former leader, ousted after

three decades in power, was the first per-

son in Monastir to vote on Sunday.

The government has withheld recogni-

tion to An-Nahda on grounds that God

belongs to all Tunisians.

Two Tunisian newspapers reported yes-

terday that independent candidates had

accused supporters of the ruling party of

various electoral abuses in some regions.

The election boycott was endorsed by

officially recognised left- and right-wing

secular parties and by an officially

unrecognised Islamic fundamentalist

group, An-Nahda.

Uprising swindlers held in Amman

AMMAN, June 12. (AP): Police said today they have arrested six men who sometimes posed as policemen to swindle hundreds of dollars meant for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

A senior police official told the Associated Press that the group had illicitly raised "hundreds of Jordanian dinars (hundreds of dollars)" since late April.

A court official said one suspect, 28-year-old Mazin Yousef Farhan of Amman, confessed at a preliminary hearing this week that he had embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Gulf donors in four separate operations in 1982, also claiming that he was raising funds for Palestinians.

He put the figure at 200,000 dinars worth almost \$570,000 at the 1982 exchange rate.

Neither the police nor the court official could be named due to standing regulations.

The police official said the gang was arrested last Friday after one of the swindlers "claimed he was raising funds for Palestinians and collected 66 dinars (\$97) from worshippers" near one of Amman's larger mosques.

To his fortune, a senior Palestinian fund-raising figure happened to be praying in the mosque and since he did not recognise the man as member of his fund-raising group, he immediately notified police, the policeman said in mixed English and Arabic.

He said authorities caught the suspect with the money and forged documents. Police did not disclose his name.

Police said the man admitted his crimes and identified his partners, including Farhan, who were arrested immediately.

Police said group members admitted they have often posed in the streets of the Jordanian capital as policemen or reporters to collect money for the uprising.

He said all six were charged with "embezzlement, forgery and impersonation of police figures."

Jordan's King Hussein denounced the new hardline government in neighbouring Iraq as a danger to Middle East peace.

"The new government forms a real threat to the stability of the region because of its rigid programme, since it refuses to talk to the PLO or withdraw from occupied Arab lands," the state-run news agency Petra quoted the king as saying.

Amnesty International said in a report released today that Jordan's human rights record has improved, but urged the newly elected government to expand safeguards and to end detention without trial.

The London-based human rights organisation also urged the new government to state categorically that it will not tolerate torture or ill-treatment of detainees by officials. It said judges should review cases of political prisoners sentenced by martial law courts.

Warn of protests

ALGIERS, June 12, (AP): Police deployed throughout the country today during Algeria's first multiparty elections since independence, pitting Islamic fundamentalists against the governing National Liberation Front.

There were no reports of violence by midday in the voting for 15,000 seats in the north African country's 1,341 municipal councils and 48 provincial councils. Authorities said the heavy police presence was to protect voters.

The election marks the first free, multiparty contest since the FLN, or FLN, turned Algeria into a one-party socialist state after winning a bloody war of independence against France in 1962.

Observers expected the FLN to finish ahead of a strong challenge posed by the fundamentalists. FLN members hold the government offices that will produce an official vote count tomorrow.

The party also controls most of the media and has far greater financial resources than its rivals.

The Islamic Salvation Front of philosophy professor Abassi Madani was the sole opposition party not to call for a boycott of the elections.

"We hope to win a majority of council seats," the frail-looking Madani said after emerging from a voting booth in the Hydra suburb of the capital.

Berber leader Hocine Ait-Ali, one of the heroes of Algeria's war for independence, called the polling "rigged."

His centrist Front of Socialist Forces and the left-leaning, populist Movement for Democracy headed by exiled former president Ahmed Ben Bella told their followers to stay at home.

The bitter rivals were expected to claim the support of any of the 13 million eligible voters who stay home. Few voters had appeared at many polling stations by midday.

But there was no indication a widespread boycott would be reflected in official results, which will be disseminated by the Ministry of Interior, run by the FLN.

About 2,600 independents or candidates from smaller parties are still contesting the election.

The bitter rivals were expected to claim the support of any of the 13 million eligible voters who stay home. Few voters had appeared at many polling stations by midday.

Huge rallies of tens of thousands of people supporting the major parties marked the long election campaign that ended last week with Madani saying his party expected to win 5 per cent of the vote.

Authorities fear his supporters might take to the streets in violent protests if Islamic candidates fail to attain that unlikely figure.

President Chadli Benjedid was forced to give up the FLN's monopoly on power after soldiers killed scores of rioters in October 1988 in protests over deteriorating economic conditions stemming from a fall in world oil prices.

This is manipulation of fraud, the FLN fears it may not be able to control the crowds that may spill out onto the streets," he told a news conference.

Madani said there had already been irregularities in early voting in the Saharan desert region of Tamanrasset in southern Algeria, where mobile stations fanned out to isolated Bedouin settlements on Saturday.

He earlier told the army not to leave barracks to challenge the FLN, which has a strong base among the young urban poor.

President Chadli Benjedid, who launched a multi-party democracy after youth riots in October 1988, has vowed a fair poll. Observers from all political parties and independent lists are allowed to watch voting and counting.

Former Algerian president Ahmed Ben Bella dismissed today's multi-party elections in his home country as a trick by the leadership of the ruling FLN to stay in power.

"This is a ploy by the leadership to perpetuate itself in power. The ruling powers will cheat, they will stuff the ballot boxes," he told French radio.

"Whether these will lead to something concrete or not, I cannot judge. But I am not positive."

The military situation is quite calm and I think the calm will continue. On the political situation there are projects under study but these are still at the beginning.

"Whether these will lead to something concrete or not, I cannot judge. But I am not positive."

The government has withheld recogni-

tion to An-Nahda on grounds that God

belongs to all Tunisians.

The ballooning marked the second time the voters of the North African country of 7.2 million people were ostensibly posed with a free choice.

In legislative elections in 1988, the ruling party won every seat in the national assembly.

Opposition parties later accused the party of having abused its control of state funds, transport and mass media.

Cappadocia crumbling

Culprits: Turkey's tourism, erosion

NEVSEHIR, Turkey, June 12, (Reuter): Erosion and unbridled tourism are blamed for damaging the ancient labyrinthine dwellings of Cappadocia, a jewel in Turkey's archaeological crown.

'No tidings of peace; no ability to change, no reason for hope' – Shimon Peres

US ready to work with Shamir's govt

Resettlement tops priorities

WASHINGTON, June 12, (Reuters): In an apparent softening of the harsh rhetoric that has accompanied strained US-Israeli ties, the United States says it is prepared to work with the new right-wing government in Israel.

Relations between the two countries are at their lowest point since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon but comments from senior US officials yesterday suggested Washington would like to get off to a good start with a government that has been described as the most hardline in Israeli history.

It is headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose relationship with US President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker has been acrimonious over Shamir's refusal to accept US proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

The US officials insisted they would continue to push for peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians while stressing the strategic importance of Israel for the United States.

"Suffice it to say that the US commitment to Israel remains absolutely solid and unalterable," Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said to a Washington gathering of a powerful pro-Israeli lobby, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee.

Vice-President Dan Quayle said: "Let me assure you that President Bush fully appreciates the strategic importance of our close ties with Israel."

In Jerusalem, Yitzhak Shamir begins his fourth term as Israel's prime minister, promising his countrymen to put resettlement of Soviet immigrants on top of the national priorities' list and launch a peace dialogue with the Arabs.

"Absorbing the mass immigration, this is the mission that will be the focus of government activity," Shamir told reporters shortly after winning parliamentary approval for his new right-wing cabinet.

Shamir gained 62 votes in the 120-seat Knesset yesterday after he formally presented a 19-member government, one of the most right-wing formations in Israel's history.

The vote installed Israel's 24th government since the state's founding in 1948 and gave the 74-year-old Shamir the prime minister's job for the fourth time.

Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc had had to accept power-sharing with the centre-left Labour Party of Shimon Peres since 1984.

The last such alliance collapsed March 15 over Labour's demands that Israel accept a US proposal for opening peace talks with Palestinians.

"I think we will reach a dialogue with several Arab elements," Shamir promised minutes after taking the formal oath of allegiance.

Shamir wants to implement the Israeli peace initiative of May 1989, which envisages Palestinian elections and limited autonomy for the 1.7 million residents of the occupied territories, as well as peace talks with the Arab countries.

Although Shamir's parliament speech included repeated pledges to seek peace, he also promised to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, indicating a likely collision course with Washington and the Arabs.

The vote came after a heated six-hour debate. Liberal lawmakers charged that Likud used bribery to forge the coalition of nine small far-right and religious parties, and Labour said the new government cannot bring peace.

Shamir replied that the criticisms were "pitiful" and appealed to the Arab countries, saying:

"We yet again call on the Arab countries to... move towards peace and peaceful coexistence with us... our call for direct talks is not an empty declaration but a real and sincere appeal to our neighbours to turn their backs to hostility and war and proceed to the negotiating table."

The angry political bickering that accompanied the new cabinet's birth raised questions about whether the coalition of diverse factions could survive until the next scheduled elections in 1992.

Shamir retained the labour and social welfare portfolio and the environment portfolio for himself.

Following are some deputy ministers expected to serve in the new government:

Finance: Yigal Bibi (NRP); Science and Energy, Gila Cohen (Tehiya); Communications, Ephraim Gur (Labour defector); Defence, Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud); Religious Affairs, Moshe Gafni (David Horowitz); Health, Eliezer Mizrahi (Breakaway from Agudat Israel);

Shamir was forced to resign as defence minister in 1983 when an Israeli inquiry commission found him indirectly responsible for the slayings of hundreds of Palestinians by Israeli-backed forces in the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps in Beirut.

Shamir, when prescribing "cures" for the 30-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands, likes to boast how he crushed Arab unrest when he served as top army commander in the Gaza Strip in 1971.

"The terrorists were eliminated. All their supporters were put in prison," Shamir said.

Critics have charged, however, that Shamir's ruthless 1971 campaign was against guerrilla cells and that the current uprising is a popular revolt consisting mainly of stoning attacks.

Last year, Shamir also suggested a way to cut outside support for the uprising.



Shamir (centre) and Foreign Minister David Levy (right) are congratulated June 11 by members of a religious party after winning a motion of confidence. (Reuter wirephoto)



Shimon Peres shown in Parliament attacking Shamir's proposed government on June 11. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shamir facing credibility problems

Convince Arabs he is not a 'monster seeking war'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 12, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has pledged to make peace a top priority of his new right-wing government, but he recognises a major task in convincing Arabs he is not a "monster seeking war."

In an apparent effort to allay Washington's fears, Shamir and leading political allies have softened rhetoric about settlement-building that US policy considers to be an obstacle to peace.

Likud officials suggest the new government will move quickly to improve relations with the United States, acknowledging that Israel's new government has an image problem.

Yossi Olmert, director of the govern-

ment press office, said, "we are concerned. We are aware of it, and we shall strive to explain what the government is all about."

"There is more flexibility in this government than meets the eye," he added.

David Levy, the new foreign minister, was housing minister in the last government and approved granting \$1.8 million in state funds to start a new settlement in the Christian quarter of occupied Jerusalem's Old City.

But he told reporters his first task as foreign minister would be "to prevent deterioration and to improve" Israel's strained ties with the United States.

Harry Wall, Israel's director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said

the government would act to reassure concerned US Jews that it was not extremist.

"It will have to try harder to disabuse the critics who think that this regime will not push the peace process.... the important thing will be to watch what it does and not what is said."

Palestinians, however, plainly do not believe a right-wing government will make any sincere move towards starting negotiations.

They see Shamir as a politician who opposed the peace treaty with Egypt, Levy as the man whose reign as housing minister resulted in creation of most of the 130 existing settlements in the occupied territories and Ariel Sharon, the new

immigration head, as the man who launched a war against Palestinians in Lebanon.

In a leaflet, the underground leadership of the 30-month Palestinian uprising noted that Shamir's government relied for support on the two-seat Moledet, or Homeland, party which advocated the expulsion of all Arabs.

It called for an escalation of anti-Israeli protests to "burn the ground under the feet of the occupation's army and settlers."

Faisal Husseini, a leading Palestinian activist in occupied Jerusalem, said, "I think it is a government of war, and I think the decisions of such a government will be a decision of war."

Tear-gas fired on clinic

66 Gaza infants treated for inhaling fumes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 12, (AP): Soldiers chasing Arab stone-throwers fired tear-gas into a UN children's and maternity clinic in the occupied Gaza Strip today, and 66 infants and children were treated for inhaling the fumes, the army said.

In Jerusalem's walled Old City, a 17-year-old Israeli seminary student going to prayers at the Western Wall was stabbed twice in the stomach. He was in moderate condition. Police immediately rounded up 100 Palestinians for questioning.

An army official said the tear-gas was lobbed into the UN clinic after

an army patrol in Gaza city's Nasser Street came under a barrage of stones and blocks thrown from the clinic.

The official noted that soldiers are barred from firing tear-gas into enclosed spaces, and that the troops involved in today's incident would be punished.

Officials of the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa), which runs the clinic, said the incident began when about half a dozen Israelis in civilian clothes ran into the building, apparently in pursuit of young Arab boys who had stoned their car.



A group of Palestinian youths are led away by an Israeli policeman after a religious Jewish student was stabbed in Jerusalem's Old City. Police rounded up dozens of Palestinians for questioning following the attack. (Reuter wirephoto)

Israel to open first office in Beijing

BEIJING, June 12, (AP): Israel's first representative office in China is to open this week, but its director said today that his job is promoting academic co-operation, not being a diplomat.

The foreign ministers of the two countries agreed in May 1989 to establish the academic exchange office, one of several steps the two sides have taken in recent years toward establishing diplomatic relations for the first time.

The liaison office for the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities is to hold its opening ceremony Friday. It has no government status, but is the latest and most concrete move toward formal relations.

"Israel obviously sees it as a step for a more serious relationship.... But our business is specifically science. That's what we do, that's what we know how to do," director Yoseph Shalhev said in an interview.

Israel was one of the first countries to recognise the communist Chinese government after it came to power in 1949, but establishment of diplomatic relations was interrupted by the Korean war, during which Israel sided with the United States, a major defender of South Korea. China fought on communist North Korea's side.

"Israel has been interested in establishing normal relations with all countries in the world. China is just about the only non-Muslim country that has refrained from establishing contact," Shalhev said.

China has maintained strong ties with Arab countries, and recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has an embassy in Beijing.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun, visiting Egypt last December, reiterated that Beijing would not consider establishing diplomatic relations until Israel returns land seized from Arab countries during the 1967 Middle East war.

However, as part of the recent warming of relations, China has opened a branch of the China International Travel Service in Tel Aviv — the first Chinese presence in Israel.

Lack of diplomatic relations has not stopped Israelis from coming to China, most of them on non-Israeli passports.

The two countries have had several informal academic and cultural exchanges and quiet but growing business dealings that reportedly include arms sales.

Two years ago, Israel established a government-run corporation, Copeco, in Hong Kong to promote trade with China.

PLO statement seen insufficient to save talks

Tension rises in Middle East as Shamir forms right-wing government

WASHINGTON, June 12, (Reuters): A new PLO statement condemning attacks on civilians is unlikely to salvage a dialogue with the United States that has been central to recent Middle East peace efforts.

They said the outlook for the region is renewed tension due to the formation of a right-wing Israeli government and the refusal of the PLO to condemn outright a foiled seaborne raid on Israeli beaches by Palestinian commandos.

"I don't see any near-term prospect for getting peace talks started," said William Quandt of the Brookings Institution.

However, he and other experts said President George Bush may opt for a compromise and decide to suspend the PLO dialogue, rather than break it off completely.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation yesterday condemned all attacks on civilians but did not specifically denounce the May 30 sea raid by one of its factions, the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF).

"We remain against any military action which targets civilians regardless of the nature of such action and we condemn it," the PLO said in a statement.

The United States, which had urged the PLO to

condemn the attack specifically, expressed disappointment with the statement. But State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler declined to say whether the Bush administration had decided to end its controversial dialogue with the Palestinian group.

The May 30 raid, which was foiled by Israel, has become a watershed for the controversial dialogue the United States resumed with the PLO in December 1988 after a 13-year break.

For the first time since the dialogue began, the United States has concluded an attack on Israel was carried out by a PLO faction and fits its definition of

terrorism.

Despite strong Israeli protests, Washington agreed to resume the dialogue after the PLO met US demands to denounce terrorism and recognise the Jewish state's right to exist.

But then-secretary of state George Shultz made clear the contacts would end if the PLO ever reverted to supporting terrorism.

Secretary of State James Baker reaffirmed this view last Friday as he made what appeared to be a last-ditch appeal to the PLO to take a stronger stand against the attack.

Pager system becomes new business tool

Necessity for some

THE PAGER device calling system has become an essential communication tool for businessmen in this age of rapid communications, a local daily who interviewed a number of owners of this small but yet important device reported.

Sulaiman Al Nawwara, a businessman said that he uses the device as he does not have a telephone at his home. He said that the pager almost carries out 80 per cent of his business calls. However, he said that

due to the high demand on this service, the pager network in Kuwait is often busy.

Regarding the company's intention to discontinue this service, he said that this will be an administrative error and is a good indicator that the department lacks good planning strategies to begin with. He commented that the pager service currently exists in a highly developed form in many Gulf countries. He added that continuing such services is good evidence of

the success of the private sector's involvement in the country.

Huda Moussa stated that the pager is a necessity to her as she works as a sales representative and said that she never leaves home without it as she is continually on the move. She disapproved of the company's intentions to terminate the service. She said that the company should exert every effort to enhance this service by resolving the problem of lines being con-

tinually engaged.

Akram Eshita a radiologist, stated that due to the nature of his work, he considers this device to be a necessity — particularly during emergency cases at the hospital. He said that this service in the doctors profession cannot be overestimated and should not be discontinued.

Bader Al Otaibi said that the pager prices are continually on the rise and that a good pager costs around KD230.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, June 12. (Kuna): His Highness the Amiri sent a cable of congratulations to Philippines President on the occasion of the country's National Day.

Premier's message

KUWAIT, June 12. (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received a message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The message was delivered by UK Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Weston at an audience at HH's office in Bayan Palace at 10.30 am.

Elections hailed

KUWAIT, June 12. (Kuna): The Kuwaiti press today highlighted the results of the National Council elections and underlined the importance of the next stage of the democratic process.

In an editorial, a daily hailed the Kuwaiti people who responded to the elections call and underlined the level of consciousness of the Kuwaiti voters for picking their representatives to the National Council.

The paper expressed belief that the next stage constitutes great importance in the democratic process and said the choice of change by the Kuwaiti people will provide them security and safety.

Kuwait govt resigns

(Continued from Page 1)

their homeland and their awareness and clear perception of actualities of life.

In a statement marking conclusion of elections, Sheikh Saad noted that such active participation by citizens, which was undeterred by either old-age or the scorching summer heat, reflected loyalty to this good earth and people's confidence in and rallying around their leadership.

"The youth who flocked to the polling centres," he said, "is not only assertive of continuation of the blessed march generation after generation and a harbinger of hope and confidence in a bright future but is also indicative of the distinguished role youth will play in undertaking the responsibility of serving this dear homeland."

Wishing the successful candidates every success in serving the electorate and the country. His Highness thanked all those who has facilitated the process and hoped for continued unity and fraternity of all people of Kuwait.

Barges Hmoud Al Barges told the Associated Press in Vienna, where he is attending a conference of news-agency executives, that he quit because of new government retirement law.

Under that law, some officials who have spent 16 years or more in government jobs are not entitled to stay in them any more, Barges said. The Information Ministry said today Barges tendered his resignation because of the "legal retirement age."

Knowledgeable sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he quit to protest accusations he manipulated the state-run agency to favour pro-democracy activists.

But Barges said such reports were "just rumours." He said he planned to look for another job but not in the immediate future because "I need some rest."

The information minister issued a statement commanding Barges, 60, for his "efforts in the service of Kuwait's press" and said the services came to an end in line with the retirement law.

Barges was known for his fervent support of the Palestinian cause and his advocacy of Arab nationalism. His fiery oratory propelled him to the chairmanship of the Federation of Arab News Agencies in addition to his leadership of Kuna since it was set up in 1979.

Before Kuna, Barges served as undersecretary for health.



Haj medical team

Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Abdul Razzak and top ministry officials saw off Monday the first Haj medical expedition leaving Kuwait for Saudi Arabia, led by Ibrahim Al Mufid.

Mufid said in press statement that the expedition consisted of 11 vehicles, which had already left the country for the holy lands, and that the total number of staff on the expedition is 160 persons, including doctors, pharmacists, nurses, drivers and representatives from the awqaf, education and interior ministries.

He added that the expedition for this season is organised in a way to carefully avoid the disadvantages and shortages of the expedition for the last haj season. He pointed out that the camping facilities will be air-conditioned, ambulances fully equipped with latest state-of-the-art equipment, dental care unit is provided, another for lab analysis and different more medical requirements.

He stressed that the Kuwaiti medical expedition will offer its services to all hajjis in the holy land, and not just the hajjis subscribing in Kuwait.



Food and shops licensing

Control on validity of food tightened

THE director of the Foods and Shop-Licensing Department at Kuwait Municipality Yousef Al Mailem has said that the department is currently considering a plan to qualify Kuwaiti cadres through the holding of intensive training courses, both abroad and at home, and introducing computers to all department activities, besides providing fair incentives to all staff.

He told a local daily that the department is presently reconsidering the existing rules and regulations and related decisions under the existing penal code,

pointing out that the penalties stipulated under certain clauses are deemed adequately deterrent, while others require revision and therefore the necessary committee have been formed for this purpose.

Mailem said that the maximum penalty for certain violations involving the selling of outdated food items is a fine not exceeding KD500.

He added that the department has a number of plans for future implementation.

He pointed out that these plans involve the setting of branch offices for the department in five governorates, the establishment of labs, where chemical and bacteriological tests for food samples can be performed, and others involve the drawing up of a firm policy to regulate the storing of food items in private houses.

He said that the department is exerting much effort to preserve the safety and validity of all types of foods through tightening control and inspection measures over these vital items, whether the import food or local produce.

He said that the department also watches over the food-selling and catering shops to ensure that public health and sanitary conditions are observed and that the items sold are valid for human consumption.

He said that the department is not technically understaffed and that there is close co-ordination between Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for holding annual training courses to graduate health assistants in numbers commensurate with the increase in the number of shops. He also pointed out that there are studies being conducted to overcome this

problem through assigning administrators on clerical works to take up technical positions.

He upheld the integrity of the inspection staff, pointing out that bad elements are found anywhere who only reflect themselves and should not be the reason to smear the reputation of all inspectors.

He said that the department is implementing a slow Kuwaitisation plan which is carefully studied in order not to hamper work progress and utilise the experience of non-Kuwaiti veterans in the field, by training young cadres.

He said that non-Kuwaiti inspectors account for 9 per cent of the total inspectors, adding that the department is working diligently to develop the performance level of all controls and centres operating under its direct supervision.

He added that for this purpose intensive training programmes are being developed for all technical and administrative staff, which also include sending inspectors to training courses held abroad.

He said that inspectors are introduced to latest inspection techniques whereby they could test the food items employing modern highly-developed quick-testing techniques.

On the types of violations committed and tickets issued to violators, he said that inspectors would issue tickets for failure to observe sanitary conditions, offering outdated items for sale, unauthorised practice, or transcending the line of practice authorised.

He said that all tickets issued will be carefully investigated and considered before referral to the legal department to verify the nature of transgressions committed, which take some time before final referral to the Investigative Department, and hence no compromise will be possible for the people involved.

The municipality has decided to suspend the issuance of licences to peddlars and to refrain from renewing expired licensing, Mailem said. He added that special arrangements have been made in coordination with the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry to freeze the permits given to them by the ministry.

Meanwhile, he continued special squads of inspectors roam the areas and issue tickets to peddlars and confiscate their stuff.

Many countries have stopped importing British beef because of the danger of mad cow disease affecting British cattle, and leading to mental disturbance in the animals' brains.

High-titred, a senior member of the British Veterinary Association, was quoted by the British Press yesterday as saying that high-titred techniques increase the risk of suspect tissues from infected cows going into foodstuffs like sausages.

Many countries have stopped importing British beef because of the danger of mad cow disease affecting British cattle, and leading to mental disturbance in the animals' brains.

Effects of Manakh receding: Sharks

Privatisation plan supported

By Humoud Ghalihi

A SENIOR economist was quoted as saying that the Kuwaiti economy had recovered to a great extent from the Manakh Crisis.

Speaking to the daily Al Seysah, Dr Wajdi Sharas, professor at Kuwait University, expressed support to the proposed merger of some financial institutions, including banks and financial companies.

He said that his acceptance of the proposed merger took into consideration several aspects including the ongoing international trend for merging banks and investment companies as well as industrial companies and Kuwaiti banks remarkable role in the international markets.

Privatisation

In this context, the official expected that after the formation of the European Economic Community, expected to be realised in 1992, Arab banks currently working in Europe will face severe competition. He added that he envisages the strength of these banks to be reduced to two or three, with other banks either going into liquidation or merging.

Speaking of the privatisation plan that the government intends to adopt, Sharas said that he strongly supports such a policy. He commented that the government could not effectively play the role of manufacturer, distributor, importer and exporter.

He said that Arab investors in Western countries, either government or individual investors should keep in mind the safety aspects of their investments. He cited the case of confiscation of Iranian and Libyan assets placed in the USA due to political disputes with the American government. Sharas called on the government and Arab investors to place their funds in Arab countries to avoid such risks.

He cited the loss suffered by Arab investors in the New York based Wall Street crash of "Black Monday." He said that this would not be the last crash in view of the increasing speculative activities in the market, the formation of new international economic blocs in addition to the new political formula which is represented by the USA as being the sole super power in the world and the setting sun of the Soviet Union as well as fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates.

Shoura a timeless practice: Hmoud

In a televised symposium, Dr Ibrahim Al Hmoud, associate professor at Kuwait University, said that the concept of democracy is deeply entrenched in the minds of the Kuwaiti masses, which is given expression in a constitutional manner since 1962.

He said that the principle of consultation (shoura) or counselling has been a time-honoured practice in Kuwait, where the Amir of Kuwait used to meet people at diwaniyas on different occasions and listen to their views and consult them on various issues.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti constitution stipulates that the Amir has the authority and power to practice his ruling office through adopting decrees that need not be affected by the political system of the government. These include the appointment of a crown prince and ministers after approval by the National Assembly.

He said that apart from these absolute rights, the Amir will exercise his official power through the ministers, and that any decision or decree adopted must bear the signature of the Amir, the crown prince and the concerned minister.

He pointed out that in accordance with the provisions of article 174 of the constitution, the Amir has set up an ad-hoc committee to study and determine the factors responsible for the failure of the previous parliament. Based on the results HH the Amir can recommend any revisions deemed necessary to the constitution to guarantee more freedoms.

Another participant in the symposium, Dr Abdullah Al Omar, professor of Arts at Kuwait University, stressed that the function of the National Council is to lay down the right constraints to govern the relationship between the legislative and executive powers.

He added that following the completion of studies of the factors responsible for the failure of the past parliamentary life, the results will be submitted to the new National Council which will be elected as per 1960 constitution. It will stay in power for a four-year cycle and that it is likely that the new council will not complete its full cycle in office, as the minimum limit has not been defined.

Hmoud said that the council will be dissolved upon completing its mission and that need not be dissolved by an Amiri decree. If the National Council should transgress the powers entrusted to the National Assembly, it will be doing so unconstitutionally.

He said that the National Council will submit its decision for consideration and endorsement to HH the Amir.

Bishara for Jordan

AMMAN, June 12. (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Abdullah Bishara will arrive on a short visit to Jordan tomorrow during which he will meet with top Jordanian officials.

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to death for the premeditated murder of his countryman.

The court heard that the defendant had a dispute with the victim over a piece of land which he had sold to him in return for a sum of money. However, the defendant lost the money which he carried on him on the day of the incident to the victim after a gambling game.

The defendant remonstrated angrily with the victim and failed to get him to pay back the money he lost to him in the game, so he took out a knife which he carried and killed him.

■ THE Court of Cassation has upheld a ten-year imprisonment sentence issued by the Court of First Instance and the Higher Court of Appeal against a man charged with possession, trading and use of drugs.

The court heard that the defendant was trapped by a security officer who posed as a buyer and paid him marked money for two rolls of drugs.

The defendant was arrested upon delivery of the contraband and a subsequent search of his flat led to the confiscation of drug-smoking equipment.

He told the court he had contacts in India who supplied the drugs and that he had more contraband in his possession, which police also retrieved.

The court also fined the defendant KD5000 for smuggling the drugs into the country and ordered him deported upon completion of his term in jail.

■ THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to 2 years imprisonment and fined him KD100 for dishonesty. A restaurant owner got two plain signed papers from his employee. On them he wrote something to show that the employee was indebted to him for KD4,000 and KD3,000 respectively and submitted the two papers to the court. The court referred the papers to forgery experts who found they were fake. The court found the complainant guilty and accused him of dishonesty and sentenced him to 2 years.

■ THE Criminal Court sentenced a young man to 4 years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered his deportation for trying to steal a car and forging an official document. The court was told that the youth offered a good 1988 model car for sale at surprisingly low price to a car company.

The accused showed the manager of the company the car's registration book clearly showing the car was his. He paid the money and asked the accused to transfer the car into his name. In the meanwhile, the manager of the company asked the traffic department about the court and found that it belongs to a rental car office and the youth rented it for three days and forged the registration book. The youth admitted the charges.

■ THE Court of Higher Appeal reduced a jail sentence on a driver who killed 5 persons to only six months. The Criminal Court sentenced the driver to one year imprisonment for driving at high speed and not taking enough precaution. The court was told that the driver knocked down and killed 3 young girls and two maids while crossing the road in Sulaibiya area. The driver said that as there was a marriage party beside the road and clouds of dust were evolving, vision was not clear and he couldn't see the ladies crossing the road. The ladies died instantly. The driver's defence attorney claimed he was not responsible for the killing as the ladies crossed the road not from the proper pedestrian place. The court found the driver guilty of driving over the allowed speed limit and sentenced him to 1 year imprisonment. The Court of Higher Appeal in its mercy reduced it to 6 months.

■ THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to three years imprisonment with hard labour and two of his accomplices to two years imprisonment with labour and ordered their deportation from the country.

The three convicts were accused of stealing money and gold from a house by breaking and entering through the main door. The owner of the house along with his family were outside the house and discovered the crime on their return.

Diligent police work resulted in successfully apprehending the burglars.

■ THE Criminal Court upheld the verdict of 15 years imprisonment and a fine of KD15,000 passed on an accused for smuggling hashish and cocaine into the country.

Investigations had confirmed that the accused was dealing in narcotics and after a careful stake-out of his premises a raid was conducted. The search revealed 351.60 grammes of hashish and cocaine hidden inside the accused's bathroom.

During investigation, the accused confessed that he had smuggled the contraband by hiding it in the paneling of his car and driving into the country.

■ THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to three and a half years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered him to pay KD500 fine for smuggling alcohol. Another man accused in the same case was acquitted.

The court was told that the accused arrived at Kuwait International Airport carrying three suitcases, but left the airport without collecting them. A customs officer suspecting the contents, opened the suitcases and found 75 bottles of liquor.

On being contacted, the accused denied ownership of the three suitcases and said that another man had requested him to carry

ARAB TIMES GRAND



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PRIZES

- First Full House: KD 100
Second Full House: KD 60
Third Full House: KD 40
Top Line: KD 25
Four Corners: KD.25**

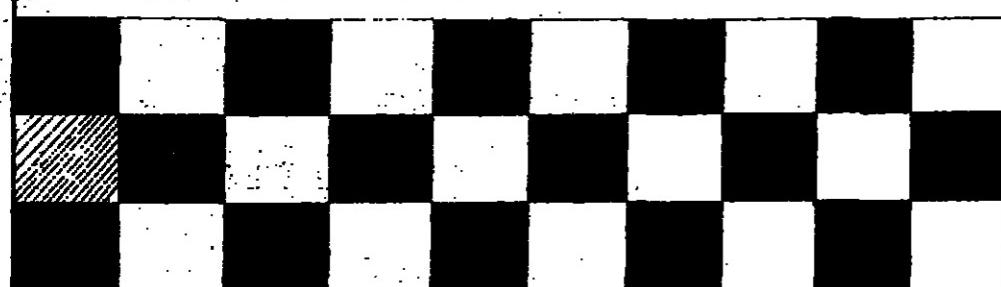
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HOW TO PLAY

- Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
 - Now select further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
 - Fill in your name and address in the
- appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
- Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
 - Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
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ANSWER THIS CLUE IN THE SHADED SQUARE:

Kuwait National Council seats

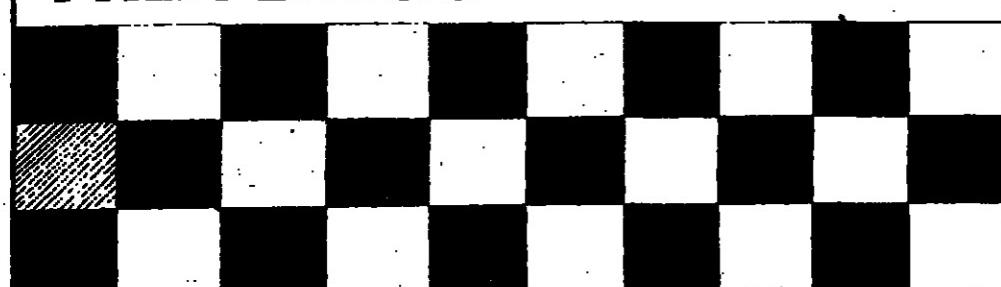
NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss)

ADDRESS

IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

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- There is no entry fee, but all entries must be on separate ARAB TIMES forms and only entries from one competitor may be enclosed in the same envelope.
- The number of each day's list will be read from left to right with the left hand number being the first of the day. The order then continues to the right. Claimants with one number will have preference over claimants with two or more numbers.
- All the claimants' entries will be opened at 1 pm on the day claims are made and depending upon the correct clue and all numbers checked being correct, the last number checked off by the claimant will be the criterion for awarding the prizes according to the priority of the number published on that day from left to the right.
- If there is a tie, the winning name will be drawn from a hat.
- The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Employees of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Organisation and their families are not eligible to enter.
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EVERYDAY four numbers will appear on Page Two. A number may be repeated. If this happens, continue with the rest of the numbers. Check off on your copy card the number or numbers which coincide with your selected numbers. Do this every day.

Please make a note of the last number you checked off, i.e. the one that completes your claim. Claimants will be asked to give this number which will decide the allocation of prizes.

When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT. This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified. When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

Bingo,
Arab Times,
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat Kuwait.

A safer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuaibah.

Low doctors' benefits issue to be redressed

Positive response from premier

MINISTER of Health, Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Yousif Al Abdul Razzaq announced that HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has promised to redress the issue of low retirement benefits paid to Kuwaiti doctors.

Speaking to a local daily, the official in a special statement, said that HH the Crown Prince has expressed his keenness to

improve the end-of-service benefits of Kuwaiti doctors.

Giving this background after a doctors delegation had met with Sheikh Saad, Razzaq said that fifty per cent of a doctor's salary consists of allowances which are not taken into account in calculating retirement benefits. He said that at the time of retirement, a doctor's basic salary does not exceed KD600, though, the total

salary at that time is around KD1,500.

Meanwhile, General Secretary of the Kuwait Medical Specialities Institute, Dr Abdullah Al Refai stressed that the doctors delegation had received positive and well intended response from Sheikh Saad in resolving this issue. He indicated that a memo issued by the Medical Society called for modification in the methodologies of computing retirement benefits by recom-

mending that these be computed on an all inclusive basis.

A special committee will be formed comprising members of the Medical Society, the Ministry of Public Health, the Civil Service Commission and the Social Security Establishment to find ways of improving conditions of Kuwaiti doctors upon the directives from HH the Crown Prince, Refai said.

Sudan faces war: Nial

ABU DHABI, June 12, (Kuna): Sudanese Minister of Religious Guidance Abdullah Deng Nial yesterday warned that Sudan is targeted in its identity and faces a brutal Zionist and secular war.

Speaking to Kuna, Nial said the Islamic world must shoulder responsibility to defend Sudan against this war, which seeks to "undermine the defence line of the Arab and Muslim worlds."

He noted that his current tour in the Gulf area was designed to consult with these countries on the challenges facing Islam and Islamic activities in addition to exchanging talks with leaders of Islamic institutions, especially the ones responsible for distribution of aid.

Nial started his tour to the region with a visit to Kuwait. He is scheduled to visit Qatar after his current visit to the UAE.

In Kuwait, the Sudanese minister met with his Kuwaiti counterpart Khalid Ahmad Al Nassar and held rounds of talks with various figures concerned with Kuwaiti charity organisations centering on the role of these organisations.

Barges in Vienna

KUWAIT, June 12, (Kuna): Board chairman and general director of Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) Barge Hamoud Al Barge left for Vienna to participate in a conference on Western media's methods in dealing with Arab causes and Arab-Western media co-ordination.

A delegation from the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) will accompany Barge, who is chairman of Fana.

A number of directors from European news agencies will be participating in the executive committee of Arab-European dialogue.

Barge who has been head of Fana since 1979 began a chain of dialogues, seminars and conferences with heads of agencies in the Western and Eastern blocs as well as newspaper chief editors and officials of different media apparatuses in order to secure an unbiased coverage of Arab issues.

Librarians meet

Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Homoud Al Mudai stressed on the authority's concern for improving libraries at the colleges and training centres. He was speaking to the first meeting of librarians at Paaet. The meeting was called to discuss problems facing libraries and plans to develop them.

Saudis call for better working environment

Better deal for workers

GENEVA, June 12, (Kuna): The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Ben Ali Al Fayez, yesterday stressed the significance of ecological interdependence which requires international co-operation.

Addressing the International Labour Conference, Al Fayez said that environmental issues were of vital importance for mankind, it is therefore incumbent upon the international community to pool efforts to safeguard the planet from the dangers that confront it.

Environmental policy, he pointed out, has a great influence on the world of work and has implications for poverty and industrial safety.

Fayez noted that the balance between development and quality of the environment is changing as time goes by, particularly in terms of income and consumption which are rising. This calls for a new strategy which takes into account the fact that a healthy working environment will make a great contribution towards environmental protection in general.

The Saudi Minister observed that in his country a special body has been set up to concern itself with the protection of the environment and the improvement of natural resources.

This body is framing policies on the environment and arranging for consultation to secure co-operation of the population with the aim of protecting the environment and arranging for consultation to secure co-operation of the population with the aim of protecting the environment in view of the

importance Saudi Arabia attaches to the protection of our natural heritage," he said.

Fayez further indicated that the government of Saudi Arabia has introduced new measures with respect to safety and health in industry. They are giving consideration to specimens of substances used in industry with an eye to guaranteeing health of workers.

Steps have been taken in the Saudi Arabia to put an end to desertification, to increase wheat production, improve purification of water, and cultivate land.

He also stated that the government ensures that all workers have decent accommodation, and that they receive essential services in the fields of social security and education.

Commenting on the convention being discussed on nightwork, Fayez told the body that this needs to be flexible and bears in mind the differences in social and economic circumstances of different countries.

Concluding, the Saudi Minister of Labour referred to the millions of immigrant Arab workers in Europe and said that the least they can be offered is social welfare protection.

Meanwhile, Kuwait represented by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour recently received the future working programme for developing work statistics in the Arab Gulf countries which had been prepared by the follow up bureau affiliated to the Arab Gulf Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs Council, a local daily reported.

Euphrates dispute

Saudis may mediate

ISTANBUL, June 12, (Reuter): Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in Ankara with a message that could include an offer to mediate in a dispute over sharing the waters of the Euphrates river.

Speaking to the magazine "Dakhiyah," he said that due to the fact that summer travel and hajj seasons coincide, new security measures will be adopted which include the use of computers and specialised counters for hajjis.

In this respect, the department has arrived at several agreements with the General Civil Aviation Department, Kuwait Airways and other airlines. Security cooperation is enhanced by way of close co-operation with other airlines, the official said.

Prince Saud returned home the same day after meeting President Turgut Ozal.

Turkey halted the flow of the river to downstream Syria and Iraq for one month earlier this year to help fill its Ataturk Dam. Syria and Iraq protested sharply.

"It is clear that such remarks are not encouraging to Turkey's positive approach on the issue," Sungar said.

Irrigation ministers of the three countries are expected to meet in Ankara on June 26 to conclude an agreement on sharing the Euphrates, a major irrigation and power lifeline.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar told Reuters that Turkey was puzzled by a statement from Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdulrahim Al Chalabi that Ankara was not taking the Euphrates issue seriously.

"We note that the water issue is intentionally being presented as a problem," he said.

The Iraqi weekly Alef Ba'a quoted Chalabi as saying little progress had been made in negotiations on the Euphrates question since 1980.

"It is clear that such remarks are not encouraging to Turkey's positive approach on the issue," Sungar said.

Tax agreements with six countries concluded

KUWAIT has concluded several agreements with various countries to avoid double taxation, a senior official at the Ministry of Finance said.

In an interview with a local daily, the director of the Tax Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Finance, Khaled Al Subaihi said that during the last six months, Kuwait had finalised this issue with Hungary, Switzerland, India, France, Australia and Poland.

Subaihi said that the Ministry of Finance invites all government authorities, the private sector and individuals who could benefit from these agreements to communicate with the ministry. After due process, beneficiaries will be provided with the necessary certificates exempting them from taxes as stipulated in the agreements just concluded.

Specifically, the official said that governmental authorities and the private sector establishments will be granted exemptions with retrospective effect as of January 1990. Tax exemption will be granted in total on equity dividends of those companies in which the government has 25 per cent equity participation. The official said that these agreements were aimed at providing ideal investment opportunities for Kuwaiti investors in countries that had endorsed these agreements.

With respect to capital tax gains, government authorities and private companies will be entitled to entire tax write-offs on equity and dividends on bonds.

Subaihi disclosed that an Amiri decree had been issued recently which endorsed an agreement between Kuwait and China for avoiding duplication in tax. According to the articles of the agreement, the government authorities and the firms in the private sector will be entitled to total tax exemption in those cases where the authority or firm possessed over 20 per cent of companies shares in China.

Bahrain poison centre soon

MANAMA, June 12, (GNA): The Public Health Information Centre in Bahrain has begun preparing special studies for the establishment of the proposed Data Bank for Poisoning and Related Preventive Measures.

The director of the Information Centre Dr Sameer Khalfan said in a press statement to the Bahraini daily Al Ayyam that the centre started collecting the necessary data for conducting the intended studies.

The centre is looking forward to a meeting by the Gulf health work team, the date of which will be announced following approval, for the purpose of discussing issues related to this project.

Khalfan said that a meeting was held by the team in Bahrain earlier which was attended by representatives from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and

Iraq.

He added that a full working paper was presented at the meeting which adopted a number of recommendations submitted for endorsement to the Health Secretariat General and was discussed by the council of GCC health ministers at its recent session in Geneva.

The main points stressed by the paper included preventive measures to combat poisoning sustained from the working environment or that caused by misuse of household medications or chemicals.

The recommendations adopted at the meeting stressed the need to raise health education about the hazards of toxic materials and ways to prevent household poisoning cases, as well as the importance of enlightening parents how to behave if they get a case of poisoning.

Workshop on tobacco use

In the United States, it has been demonstrated that brief medical and dental office intervention services can produce 5-15 per cent long-term smoking cessation rates. These rates are significant because they culminate in major changes in public behavior over the time. Dr. Mecklenburg and the Ministry of Public Health will discuss these methodologies and their application for Kuwait on June 23-24, 1990.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES**Thought for today**TOO long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart —
William Butler, Irish poet.**OPINION****A right step at the right time**

THE cabinet resignation has for long been a popular demand. We wouldn't say that the resignation was delayed. Instead, let's say it's better to take a step forward than remain stagnant. The step has now been taken in a different atmosphere; with important national considerations and envisioning new future plans. Such factors are certainly better than before.

The government now sees the true children of this nation and can examine their demands in a clearer manner. The government is certainly aware that we have entered the last decade of the 20th century. It must, therefore, be remembered that the main wish of the people who responded positively to their leader's call revealing their true openness and unhesitant feelings, is to see a dramatic improvement in the performance of the government staff.

The new government must be one that improves economic performance and helps restore the work of economic activists whose roles had been almost frozen for various reasons. We don't say the outgoing cabinet has failed; let's say its efforts were not completely fruitful.

The previous cabinet exerted honest efforts, making some achievements in some spheres and failing in others. This is but natural. More natural, however, is to feel and admit failure, if any. The coming government should be a body that boosts economic performance and preserves national unity shown by the Kuwaiti people during the National Council elections. It is the government which should appoint the right man in the right place. Above all, the new cabinet should fulfill its duties towards the people who were loyal and respected their regime and constitution.

The members of the new cabinet must be (able to rise to) the level of recent developments. The Kuwaiti leadership has been able to overcome difficult situations in the recent past. The Kuwaiti people have played their part by expressing total support for their leaders, homeland and the constitution.

Now, we should not let people with vested interests penetrate and let the outcome become an easy target. We eagerly await the new cabinet, which should concentrate on improving performance by adopting new ideas for the 1990s decade. We should do this as early as possible so that there are no future regrets for delayed actions. Time will tell if what we have done today was right.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

**Nigeria experiment
Tensions could mar pluralism**

KADUNA, Nigeria. (Reuters): Drive through Kaduna on a Friday afternoon and you will join others of many faiths waiting patiently in traffic jams as Muslims attending Sabbath prayers crowd the streets around the city's mosques.

Muslims, Christians and believers in traditional African religions mingle in this northern Nigerian state capital, as elsewhere in Africa's most populous nation.

But many in Kaduna — labelled "the land of religious hawks" by the local Democrat newspaper — fear a repeat of Muslim-Christian riots in 1987.

Kaduna is situated in the centre of northern Nigeria, its three million people roughly equally divided between the faiths.

Some see it as a potential flashpoint for tensions brought to the surface by an abortive coup on April 22, endangering a political process initiated by military President Ibrahim Babangida to hand power back to civilians by 1992.

"It is absolutely impossible that we can reach 1992 peacefully," said Father Martin Dama, a Roman Catholic priest who is leading figure in the Kaduna branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

"There will be fratricidal violence. Christians feel their backs are to the wall," he told Reuters.

This country has seen seven attempted coups and a traumatic civil war in the 30 years since independence from Britain.

Major Gideon Orkar, one of ten officers being tried on treason charges arising from the April coup, claimed to represent "the marginalised and enslaved people of the middle belt and the south."

He articulated the resentment of many of those who feel that Hausa-Fulani northern Muslims systematically exclude others from good schools and government jobs, and divert northwards public funds generated in the south, mainly from oil.

"Whether the government is civilian or military, the Hausa-Fulani cling to power," Dama told Reuters.

It is a sentiment heard among southwestern Yorubas of all faiths, among Catholic Igbos in the east, and among members of more than 300 minority ethnic groups in the central region and elsewhere.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1546 — Protestant princes of Germany denounce Council of Trent.
- 1547 — Hungary and Turkey sign five-year truce.
- 1663 — British fleet defeats Dutch off north Foreland.
- 1721 — England joins Treaty of Madrid with Spain and France.
- 1839 — Miloš, King of Serbia, abdicates, and is succeeded by his son Milan.
- 1849 — Communist riots in Paris are crushed.
- 1900 — Boxer uprising against Europeans in China begins.
- 1916 — Jan Christian Smuts captures Wilhelmsburg city in German East Africa.
- 1940 — Paris is declared an open city in World War II.
- 1956 — Last British troops leave Suez Canal base, turn waterway over to Egypt after operating it for 74 years.
- 1969 — Withdrawal of US combat troops from South Vietnam begins with pullout of unit fighting in Mekong Delta.
- 1973 — United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Viet Cong sign new pact in Paris designed to reinforce Vietnam ceasefire.
- 1974 — Army in republic of Yemen seizes power in bloodless coup.
- 1984 — Nicaragua says its troops forced group of US-backed rebels to flee across border into Costa Rica after four days of heavy fighting.
- 1987 — Panamanians stage peaceful protests to demonstrate their displeasure with nation's military leadership.
- 1988 — Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman says a policeman was killed during ethnic protest in Azerbaijani capital of Baku.
- 1989 — Syrian and Christian gunners fight five-hour shelling duel around Beirut.

Mandingos flee Liberia**Govt, rebels to talk in Freetown**

MONROVIA, (Reuters): The street outside the Benson Street mosque in central Monrovia is normally jammed with people attending evening prayers on Fridays.

But not in these uncertain days. With rebels close to the Liberian capital and fears of bloody reprisals against the ethnic group that makes up the bulk of the country's Muslim community, the streets are almost empty.

"Now it is very difficult for the mosque to fill up," said Lassana, 36, who makes a living importing goods from neighbouring Ivory Coast and is a member of the Mandingo Muslim community.

"Many of our Mandingo people have been killed at mosques and some people have been assassinating them at their homes," he said.

"Sometimes the rebels take our women and keep them two or three months in the bush .. and some men refuse them when they come back."

Terrified

The Muslim community of this rundown West African capital city of 500,000 people is terrified at the approach of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels led by Charles Taylor.

The city has been all but emptied of Mandingos, a Liberian name for people who in neighbouring countries are called Malinke, signifying that they are descended from the ancient trading civilisation of Mali.

Many Malinke run small shops or are tailors, peddlars, money lenders and taxi drivers.

An announcement that talks between the government and the rebels would begin this week in Sierra Leone eased tensions somewhat, but it will take time to undo the damage done in six months of fighting.

Finding a taxi is virtually impossible since many Mandingos who own the bulk of the cars have driven their last fares straight to the border and beyond.

Hundreds of shops remain shuttered all day long because their Mandingo owners have fled.

Escape

They have gone to Sierra Leone or Guinea, which many of them left in the 1960s to escape the socialist regime of the late Guinean leader Sékou Touré.

Now they are returning to Guinea after hearing rumours and eyewitness accounts of alleged killings of Mandingos as town after town has fallen to the rebels who invaded on Christmas Eve from neighbouring Ivory Coast.

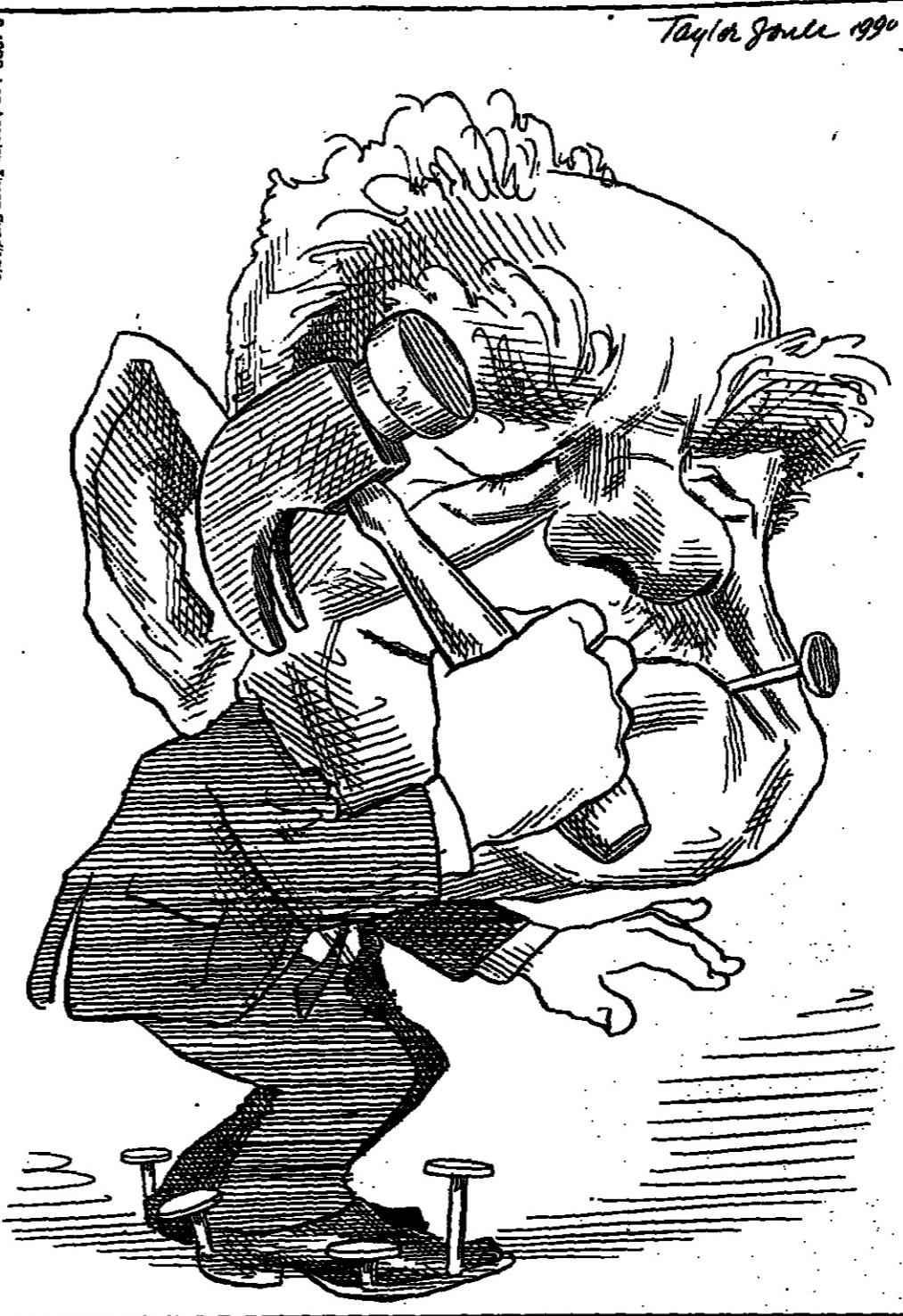
"If the rebels continue to slaughter the Mandingos ... this will become an Islamic feud and that will be something else," said a government official who is a Muslim.

Ironically, Mandingos wield little political power in this West African country founded in 1847 by freed American slaves. Only one or two have top ministerial jobs.

But Mandingos have become victims by association with the rebels' main target — President Samuel Doe and his ruling Krahn tribe — because of perceptions of the mostly Gio, and Mano rebels that Mandingos have prospered under Doe at their expense.

"It's an economic problem," an African diplomat said. "The Muslims are very dynamic and they have a certain monopoly on commerce and transport.

1990 Los Angeles Times Service



"They have a lifestyle that is a bit better than those around them and they are foreigners so they get blamed for the country's economic disaster."

One African embassy in the capital city of this country is jammed every day trying to flee the country.

Taylor Goule 1990

One woman said she had fled 100 miles northeast of the capital because rebels invaded and, she alleged, began shooting Mandingos indiscriminately.

Letters to the Editor**Congrats,
Indian School**

SIR: We sincerely wish to congratulate the Board of Trustees, principals and the teachers for their sincere efforts in achieving 100 per cent success for the Indian School in the All India Senior School Certificate Examination held in March, 1990. We also congratulate the top scorers and all other students for their success and for keeping the reputation of their school.

It is encouraging to see that the new members are paying attention to complaints from parents. Some of the members have been found inspecting classrooms especially for checking the working of the room air-conditioners. We hope that our children may soon be able to enjoy their class in the cool breeze from the air-conditioners.

We would thank those who have given sincere attention to the sufferings of our children in this hot summer weather. We also request our parent members to see the unhygienic condition of water coolers, wash-basins and toilets and take urgent remedial action during this summer vacation.

We expect that the new Board of Trustees will be able to sort out the grievances of the staff and solve them quickly and fairly. At the same time, we do not hesitate to point out the booming tuition-mindedness among teachers. We request these teachers to refrain from such unhealthy practices and to devote their resources and energy to teaching inside classrooms of the school in order to benefit all the students and parents. We look forward to seeing a new look out after the summer holidays.

We wish all success for the new Board of Trustees with professional skills and sincere motives, in their action to bring about sweeping changes to improve the status of the school and fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the students and their parents.

Parents,
(Name and address supplied)

Afghan mujahedeen

SIR: This letter is in reference to a recent article entitled "Aid groups threatened — Afghan women afraid" on May 28.

This article in its entirety is the essence of anti-mujahedeen propaganda, and is filled with so much incorrect information that it is pitiful. This is another blatant attempt by the sick politicians to discredit Islam and Muslims once again.

It is only fair to allow the truth to be told about the real situation after the seeds of falsehood have already been sown. The entire article was obviously written with the notion to get people to be against the "rebels" and to feel sorry for the Christian authorities in Pakistan at refugee locations, as well as to despise the so-called "fundamentalists" who these unnamed sources claim are acting so unreasonably by fighting back against Western and other influences.

"Shelter Now International," an Australian based organisation, started out by giving milk to the orphans, an innocent action by any standards. The next step was to build a children's playground which was frequented by young children, also no problem by the Islamic standards of the Afghan people, but, soon afterwards, older children were being drawn to the playgrounds, including girls past the age of puberty, along with boys of the same age, and this was only the

beginning.

Then they built men's and women's lavatories, this was nice, except for the fact that they were built right next to each other, thus encouraging mixing of men and women, a thing unheard of in Afghan Muslim society. Then, if all that wasn't bad enough, it was discovered that they, this wonderful "humanitarian" organisation, had been putting sedatives in the milk that was being distributed, and in this way, the women were losing their inhibitions and thus even more things were happening, such as loose morals, etc. This was about the time that the mujahedeen heard of their efforts to undermine the society, and, also, at the same time, 1,000 plastic pornographic body parts were found — just think of the implications of that discovery — and soon afterwards the "Shelter Now International" group in Pakistan was removed from the map.

Referred

Another point constantly referred to in the press is the accusation that the mujahedeen are splintered and jealous of each other. These stories are always grossly exaggerated and full of half-truths, lies, and misleading information. The fact is, there are seven different fighting units all with their own commanders, but they are all fighting in harmony for exactly the same goal, and with full interaction and relations amongst each other.

Throughout the entire article a lot of Western "personalities" seemed to have plenty of comments on how weak the mujahedeen are, how divided they are, and how ridiculously close to the edge they are, but, they offer no evidence of that. One only has to look at the actual activities of the mujahedeen to see that all these comments are filled with hot air; what with tall tales of Hekmatyar's acid throwing days, and the misnamed Abdur-Raheem Sayyaf (his actual name), and other idiotic references.

These "aid" groups come into the Islamic societies and deem they want to "help" these strictest of Muslims; strict in faith and virtue (proof of their virtue and very pious characters is the very kind and hospitable way that they treat their prisoners of war, to the degree that a great number of them embrace Islam and start fighting alongside the mujahedeen), while, at the same time, they insist on forcing these strict Muslims to accept the loose morality of the West, and of the mujahedeen refuse to accept they are thus accused of being radicals, etc.

All in all, I think it is now pretty clear that there is as big a propaganda war against the mujahedeen as there is in the rest of the world against Islam in general, but the mujahedeen are sticking to their guns both literally and figuratively, and will continue to do so in spite of the lies. These people will not sell their religion for a small price.

Mis Ponzo,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1990

Canada**Nothing will stop Quebec secession**

OTTAWA, (UPI): Attempts to keep the French-speaking province of Quebec part of Canada are destined to fail no matter how vigorously the country's political leaders champion the unity cause.

Quebec's 6.2 million French-speaking people have never considered themselves part of Canada, but have sought restively since becoming a partner in confederation in 1867 to be their own nation.

The Meech Lake Accord, a constitutional amendment that recognizes Quebec as a distinct society and gives it the power to promote and preserve the French language and culture, provides only a lull in Quebec's search for sovereignty.

Threats

The accord was endorsed Saturday by nine of the 10 provincial leaders and the federal government after a week of marathon negotiations and continued threats by Quebec to secede if all of its conditions weren't met.

But its fate hangs on the Atlantic province of Newfoundland after its leader, Clyde Wells, said he could not support an agreement negotiated at Quebec's gun point.

Quebec already considers itself a separate entity having little in common with the other provinces.

People in the rest of Canada should stop thinking of Quebec as a simple province. They should accept it as being not only a distinct society but a nation," aid Claude Morin, a leading Quebec academic. He was a minister in the separatist Parti Quebecois government that ruled the province from 1976 to 1985.

The Meech Lake Accord, Morin says, will not satisfy Quebec's demands. But the emotional negotiations over the distinct society clause and the special powers it confers on Quebec will serve as a useful prelude to new relationships with the rest of Canada, one in which commercial ties are maintained between the two solitudes, but little else.

That is hard for English-speaking Canadians to accept, mainly because Canadian hate anything that upsets the status quo. Even when heads in the sand, however, a lot of Canadians have come to resent being held prisoner to the nationalistic pressure of Quebec.

Confidence

This will continue, says acclaimed University of Calgary historian David Bercuson, unless Canada is willing to "face its demons."

"The question of Quebec's independence must be squarely faced if we are to have constitutional peace with Quebec or without it," he said.

Until then, he added, Quebec will be fully in the driver's seat. It will demand concessions and get them, threatening, like a "traveler who goes to collect his marmots and leave."

That is the difference between Canada and America between the two founding cultures.

Canada's western provinces, which form a stronger economic region than Quebec, have grown increasingly dissatisfied within the confederation, mainly because the two largest provinces, Quebec and Ontario, have the greatest influence over the federal political process and get the lion's share of Ottawa's goodies.

They are tired of a province that wins concessions by threats.

Calgary lawyer John Webb said the common response to Quebec's demand for favours is, "don't threaten us anymore."

Eventually, English-speaking Canada must realize it cannot negotiate constitutional matters with Quebec because there will only be one party offering to bargain in good faith. When the constitutional talks began Sunday, Quebec made it clear they would never accept changes in the Meech Lake Accord.

QUOTE ME

"I'm surprised we wound up in second place. Considering the situation we find ourselves in — by our own fault — and the campaign that was led against us, especially by parties that didn't make it into parliament. I think we did quite well." — Czechoslovak Communist Party secretary Vasil Mohorita.

"Given the fact that these are the first free elections, and against the background of the elections as a whole, I would say that those minor infractions could not be regarded as something discrediting the elections as a whole." — Bulgarian Electoral Commission president Zhivko Stalev.

"The reality of Peru's crisis demands an extraordinary force. A government of national unity is required in order for the country to move ahead. The crisis in its diverse forces is hitting us hard." — Peruvian President-elect Alberto Fujimori.

"It's the greatest day in Bulgaria's history in at least 50 years. I think it's a frontier we are crossing to join universally and wholeheartedly the family of democratic nations." — Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Lunakov.

"The Bush administration has continued this dialogue because we believe in the absence of such a dialogue, Palestinians from the occupied territories would be less likely to participate in the peace process. But we have never pressed Israel to negotiate with the PLO. We have never sought to bring the PLO into the peace process through the back door..." — Vice-President Dan Quayle.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gold strengthens

Dollar mixed

LONDON, June 12, (AP): The dollar ended narrowly mixed in Europe today, while the pound soared on a report that the British currency would be linked to Europe's exchange rate mechanism in the fourth quarter.

Gold prices rose.

The dollar continued to trade in well-established ranges of 1.68 West German marks to 1.7050 marks, and 152.50 yen to 155.50 yen, dealers said.

Andrew Elliott, international foreign exchange salesman for Chase Manhattan Bank in London, said he doesn't expect the dollar to break out of its current trading ranges until Friday's release of US trade figures.

Most of the market's interest was focused on a rush to buy sterling against most other currencies, which pushed the pound to its highest level on a trade-weighted basis since late September, although it reached only a four-month peak against the dollar.

The buying was prompted by a Financial Times report today that treasury officials have decided recently that Britain's underlying annual inflation rate will be low enough toward the end of the year to allow the pound to enter the exchange rate mechanism in the fourth quarter.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's office said the report was "pure speculation."

The pound's trade-weighted average jumped 0.8 to 90.3, its highest level since it stood at 91.4 in late September.

The British pound soared to \$1.7020 in London from \$1.6858 late Monday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Monday.

■ 1.6920 West German marks, up from 1.6910

■ 1.4367 Swiss francs, down from 1.4400

■ 5.6950 French francs, up from 5.6900

■ 1.9045 Dutch guilders, up from 1.9040

■ 1.242.35 Italian lire, down from 1.242.75

■ 1.1713 Canadian dollars, up from 1.1705

In Tokyo, where trading ends as Europe's business day begins, the dollar rose 0.30 yen to a closing 154.40 yen. Later, in London, it was quoted at a higher rate of 154.44 yen.

Gold rose in London to a late bid price of \$356.25 a troy ounce, up from \$354.45 bid late yesterday.

In Zurich, the metal rose to a closing bid of \$355.65, up from \$355.00 late yesterday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose \$2.07 to close at a bid \$357.82.

Saudi market active

NICOSIA, June 12, (Reuter): The Saudi riyal interbank deposit market again saw activity in short dates today, but showed less interest in the longer periods, dealers said.

Spot/next dealing for Thursday/Monday was quoted at 7-3/4 7-1/2 per cent, and one week at eight 7-3/4. One month dealt at 8-1/8 and was later being quoted at 8-3/16 8-1/16. Fixed dates above three months were quiet, they said, and rates were quoted unchanged from Monday.

The spot riyal was quoted at 3.7499/02 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was active in short dates today, but saw less activity in longer periods, said dealers.

Short dates dealt throughout the morning, with overnight dealing at 8-5/8 and 8-1/2 per cent, tomorrow/next at 8-3/8 and 8-1/2, and spot/next at 8-1/2. The market in fixed dates was quiet, they said, although some interest was shown in three months, which dealt at 8-3/4. One and three months were quoted at 8-3/4 8-1/2 and six months and one year at 8-7/8 8-5/8.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.9267/77 to the dollar.

Dubai's Emirates receives Airbus

DUBAI, June 12, (AP): The fast-growing airline of the southern Gulf of Dubai, Emirates, took delivery today of the first of three Airbus A-300-600R aircraft.

The three-class extended-range Airbus was flown in from the Toulouse headquarters of the aircraft company by United Arab Emirates pilots.

"The fleet expansion is part of

Emirates strategy aimed at maintaining

the rapid growth it has experienced since its formation," said Emirates airlines managing director Maurice Flanagan.

"We mean to be well prepared to meet the requirements of the future."

Emirates, which was launched in 1985, will use the new aircraft exclusively for its London service, one of 20 destinations it services.

The airline, which announced the pur-

chase of the three Airbus in February last year, will accept delivery of the second A-300-600R in September and the third next year.

In addition to those, Emirates has ordered a further three A-310s for delivery at the end of 1992, and is expected to own a fleet of 12 aircraft by early the following year.

The airline already has one A-300-

600R which serves the Indian subcontinent and other routes.

The new A-300-600R will carry a total of 223 passengers, 11 less than the number recommended by the manufacturers, Airbus Industrie, for extra comfort.

An interesting feature of the aircraft is that passengers in all three classes — first class, business and economy — can get full flight information on video screens

above them. All three classes also have "super bin" overhead lockers with a 55-pound (25 kilogramme) capacity.

The expansion of the Emirates network moves up on June 17 when it will launch its first Far East routes to Singapore via Colombo, to Manila and to Bangkok.

These new routes will be served twice weekly by A-310 aircraft.

Downstream system in Europe can handle 450,000 bpd

Kuwait raises its share of Italian market

NICOSIA, June 12, (UPI): Following the recent acquisition of the Mobil refinery and distribution network in Italy, Kuwait's integrated downstream system in Europe is now capable of handling about 450,000 barrels a day, an oil industry newsletter said today.

Nasser Al Salem, vice-president of Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), the international subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) made the remarks in an interview with the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

With its purchase of Myrbil's 100,000 barrels a day refinery and 2,000 branded service stations throughout Italy, KPI has raised its share of the Italian market to 10-11 per cent compared with the previous 3.5-4 per cent.

Elsewhere in Europe, KPI's market shares are reckoned to be around 23-24 per cent in Denmark, 12 per cent in Sweden, 7 per cent in Belgium, 4.5 per cent in the Netherlands and 2.5 per cent in the United Kingdom.

KPI owns two other European refineries in Rotterdam, with a capacity of some 75,000 barrels a day, and in Denmark, with a capacity of 56,000.

However, Al Salem noted, this European refining capacity of some 230,000 barrels a day will leave KPI's integrated downstream system in Europe short of refined products to the extent of over 200,000 barrels a day, which has to be made up from Kuwait and from processing deals with other refiners.

Before the acquisition of the Mobil refinery, KPI used to process crude in Italy to supply its network with around 60,000 barrels a day, but it now expects to use its own refinery.

Al Salem disclosed that KPI was looking at possible joint ventures in refining both in Europe and the Far East. However, he was not enthusiastic about joint ventures for marketing which he described as a "very difficult thing."

In Europe, KPI was looking for opportunities to improve its market share in the UK and enter new markets with "Q8" branded outlets and stations, Al Salem said.

Possibilities on that front were being pursued in France and Germany, to which products were already being supplied in bulk in Spain, Portugal and Austria, according to Al Salem.

KPI was also seeking to get into the East European market and plans were already underway for a joint venture with Hungary's national oil company with a view to upgrading its distribution network and, hopefully, putting "Q8" brand products into the outlets, he said.

KPI would also be looking into a possible refining joint venture in Hungary, Al Salem said.

In the Far East — which is also a priority target for KPC/KPI expansion — attention was being focussed on Thailand as a possible launching pad for a regional presence embracing Japan and other markets in the area, he said.

Noting that Kuwait's initial intention was to look into the possibility of building 200 service stations in Thailand, Al Salem spoke of more far-reaching plans to build a refinery in the following terms:

"There is also a project to build a refinery both to supply the local market and for export. The exports would supplement our existing supplies to these regional markets and would also service any new networks we might develop — which could be in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and even the Philippines."

Oil prices have hit bottom

SINGAPORE, June 12, (Reuters): Opec secretary-general Subroto said today that oil prices have hit bottom and ruled out emergency Opec talks to prevent any further falls.

"We feel \$14.25 is more or less the bottom already," he told an oil conference in Singapore by telephone from Opec headquarters in Vienna. "From now we will see a strengthening of prices instead of further weakening."

"We are not going to have a special meeting or an emergency meeting," he said.

Subroto said the Opec reference basket of seven crudes averaged \$14.24 a barrel in the first week of June.

The target price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for this basket is \$18.

At emergency talks in May, Opec ministers agreed to reduce production by 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) to try to reverse the sharp drop in oil prices this year.

Khorafi off to Vienna

KUWAIT, June 12, (Kuna): Minister of Finance Jassim Mohammad Al Khorafi left here today for Vienna to attend the 11th session of ministerial council of the Opec Fund for International Development, due to be held tomorrow.

Al Khorafi, who is also the current chairman of ministerial council, told Kuna that the meeting will elect a new chairman and vice-chairman for the council. Kuwait is the current chairman and Ecuador is the vice-chairman.

He added that the meeting will also discuss the 1989 financial report.

Al Khorafi said there were some 28 loans worth \$119 million and about \$4 million as grants offered by the fund.

Portugal still making up its mind on exchange rate mechanism

LISBON, June 12, (Reuter): Portugal, fearful of missing the boat of European Economic Community integration, cannot make up its mind when to join the bloc's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

The ERM, part of the European Monetary System, is seen as a forerunner to a full monetary union of the 12 EEC states.

Some economists say it would be unworkable to tie the escudo to the nine currencies in the ERM while Portugal's inflation rate — now at 13 per cent — is more than twice the EEC average.

Apart from Portugal, only Britain and Greece have not yet joined the ERM, which sets member currencies at a fixed rate against the European currency unit and allows them to fluctuate within a band of 2.25 per cent on either side of it.

In the case of Spain, which joined only last year, the peseta has a six per cent fluctuation band.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dismissed as "pure speculation" a press report today that Britain would enter the ERM later this year.

He said Britain would join when its inflation rate was closer to the community average and when the EEC's financial market liberalisation was more advanced.

Bankers say Portugal would be under strong pressure to follow suit immediately once Britain joined.

For Portugal, a target date of 1992 is the most favoured for joining the ERM. But supporters of earlier entry argue

that the continuing strong flow of foreign investment — \$2.4 billion in 1989 — outweighs the inflation factor. ERM membership would also be a strong psychological weapon against inflation, they say.

Despite the policy of monthly 0.25 per cent devaluations against a basket of currencies, the escudo has been shadowing the ERM wider six per cent band for the past two to three years.

"It's been hovering around parity, in effect it has been unofficially in the ERM without any of the safeguards," a political analyst said.

The nine states in the EEC are happy to let Portugal make up its own mind," EEC officials say.

But political pressure is building up at home. The opposition socialists, from

President Mario Soares down, are pressuring for entry as soon as possible.

Analysts say the government too is divided. Bank of Portugal Governor Jose Tavares Moreira backs 1992, while Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, though an economist by profession, would like to move faster.

"Cavaco Silva wants to go in as soon as he can because Portugal is thoroughly integrationist and Mario Soares is in danger of pinching the political high ground," one said.

Portugal, though on some measures no longer the EEC's poorest state, is intensely conscious of its remote economic and physical position in the community.

All mainstream politicians are determined that their nation of 10 million

people must not be left behind in the move towards economic and monetary union in the bloc.

At the same time the ruling Social Democrats have to face an election in late 1991 and may want to avoid anything that would risk raising unemployment, limiting their spending power or cutting growth, currently about five per cent.

Bankers were divided about the likely date of entry. One said 1992 was "a good target." Another said: "I think it will happen sooner than people think. Before the elections at least."

Portugal would be joining the six per cent band of the ERM. Another argument for early entry is that if it does not move quickly, the broad band might be abolished altogether.

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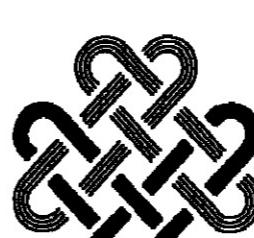
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British Steel announces jump in profits

LONDON, June 12. (Reuters): British Steel PLC today reported a 24 per cent jump in pre-tax profit for the last financial year to £733 million (\$1.23 billion).

But the company said prices for steel in Europe weakened in the last quarter of the year to March 31 while demand for steel in Britain peaked at the same time.

"The effects of the easing of demand and increasing costs resulted in profits in the second half of the year falling below the very strong level achieved in the first half," said a company statement.

Though the profit outriveted analysts' forecasts, word of the fall in demand brought an initial drop of two pence (three cents) in British Steel shares to 146.50 pence (\$2.46).

Company chairman Sir Robert Scholey said British Steel, which was privatised by the Conservative government in late 1988, would seek growth through a mixture of cost-saving capital investment and acquisitions.

British Steel has aroused a political furor by announcing that it plans to close its hot-strip mill at Ravenscraig in Scotland. But the company said: "Such measures...are essential to ensure the company's long-term competitiveness."

Group turnover rose four per cent in the year to £5.11 billion (\$8.58 billion). Sales in Britain rose only slightly to £3.25 billion (\$5.46 billion) but in the European Economic Community they leapt 21 per cent to £991 million (\$1.66 billion).

Nahas appointed general manager

ANDRE NAHAS has been appointed general manager of Kodak (Middle East) Inc with responsibility for the Middle East marketing and distribution of Kodak's photographic, commercial and medical as well as supplying affiliated operations in India, Egypt and Kenya.

Nahas takes over from William Quinn who has been appointed general manager of Kodak Taiwan Limited, based in Taipei, Taiwan.

Now based in Dubai, Nahas joined Kodak in 1974 after graduating from the American University of Beirut in 1970.

Since then he has held a variety of positions with Kodak throughout the Middle East area and was most recently director of International Business Analysis in the Health Sciences Division based at Eastman Kodak's headquarters in Rochester, USA.

New gas find

DHAHRAN, June 12. (AP): The state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco has discovered a new gas field at Hilwah, 85 miles (137 kms) south of the capital Riyadh, Oil Minister Hisham Nazer announced today.

The field is also located 45 kms (28 miles) north of Hawrah well No. 1 where oil was struck last June, he said.

The gas-bearing zone was at a depth of 6,257 feet (.907 metres) and was struck on May 30. A well test conducted by the company on June 1 showed that the gas flowed at an average rate of 14.4 million cubic feet (1.3 million cubic metres) per day and condensate at a rate of 429 barrels per day, Nazer said.

Saudi Arabia has enhanced its oil and gas exploration activities in the central areas around Riyadh.

With the new exploration activities, the country reported a big increase in its oil and gas reserves, which according to the company's annual report for 1989 stood respectively at 257,504 billion barrels and 180,353 trillion standard cubic feet.

Saudi Arabia is also turning towards tapping mineral resources according to the minister. He said King Fahd wanted that all efforts be made to use the kingdom's mineral resources and seek foreign technology for the purpose through international bids.

Hong Kong girlie bars, factories make way for offices

HONG KONG, June 12. (Reuters): The girlie bars of Hong Kong's Wanchai district that seemed with US servicemen during the Vietnam war are rapidly making way for shiny high-rise office buildings.

The British colony's three year economic boom has led to a severe shortage of office space and new blocks are spreading from the bustling central business area to tower over the tattoo parlours and cheap restaurants of Wanchai and the grimy industrial districts beyond.

"Average rents shot up by 70 to 75 per cent in the year to June 1989," said Peter Churchouse, a vice-president of

Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong.

Prices central's Exchange Square, three gleaming towers that house leading international names in banking and finance, have risen from about 17 Hong Kong dollars (\$2) a square foot (0.09 square metres) when the towers first opened in 1985 to 80 HK dollars (\$10) last year.

"A lot of people found these prices just too much and decided to move elsewhere," Churchouse said.

But a surge in demand last year cut available office floor space to just three per cent of the more than 50 million square feet (4.6 million square metres) total, property agent Jones Lang

Wootton said in a report.

Michael Laven, a director of property agent First Pacific Davies, says Hong Kong's economic boom and a structural shift from manufacturing to services have put pressure on office space.

"A lot of companies here expanded rapidly in terms of people but they couldn't expand in terms of space."

He said the average space per employee fell from 7.9 square feet (0.73 square metres) in 1986 to 6.5 square feet (0.6 square metres) in 1989.

"This is not ideal. By world standards, 6.5 square feet is very, very tight."

Companies responded by taking larger premises wherever they could," Laven said.

Sparkling new offices in Wanchai, just to the east of central, figured high on the list of preferences. A new convention and exhibition centre and two top-class hotels, all overlooking scenic Hong Kong harbour, cast an upmarket sheen on the run-down red light district.

But the rents in Wanchai are fast catching up with those in central and businesses are eyeing sites even further afield, Jones Lang Wootton says.

Tai Koo Shing, a former dockyard,

borders a grim, noisy factory district. It was built up out of a minerals quarry and is now a sprawl of factories, rundown offices and tiny shops and a target for developers, analysts say.

The property arm of trading giant Swire Pacific is building two 22-storey office towers adjoining a shopping complex already open for business in Tai Koo Shing.

The offices, a 20-minute subway ride from central, are scheduled for completion by mid-1992. More than a quarter of the space has already been rented at an undisclosed price.

Businesses are willing to go even fur-

ther than Tai Koo Shing. Some 600,000 square feet (56,000 square metres) of offices in Cheung Sha Wan, squeezed between gritty industrial districts on the Kowloon peninsula, were fully rented when they opened in 1989.

In 1993, when more than seven million square feet (650,000 square metres) of office space have come on-stream, supply may outstrip demand for the first time since 1986.

Rents may fall a bit but they will not crash, Laven said. "If businesses take up more than five million square feet (460,000 square metres), we won't see any movement in rents at all."

Talks under way

Iran to supply gas to Europe and Asia

ZURICH, June 12. (Kuna): Iran is negotiating large-scale contracts to supply natural gas to Europe and Asia, the International Herald Tribune (IHT) reported today.

In an interview to the daily from Singapore, the Iranian Petroleum Minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh said talks were under way with a number of countries, including West Germany, Italy, France, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Japan and South Korea.

The Iranian petroleum minister was attending an international oil conference, which continues today, and which is sponsored by the IHT.

Aqazadeh said that Iran would use its huge reserves of natural

gas to generate economic growth and become "one of the world's major gas exporters."

He added that Iran and a group of European nations, which he declined to name, were studying the feasibility and relative costs of exporting Iranian gas to Europe by pipeline through Turkey or the Soviet Union, or by ship in the form of liquified natural gas.

The minister noted that although negotiations with some European companies and governments were "close to a conclusion," it had been agreed that details would not be released until they had been made final.

According to the IHT, Western and Japanese officials confirmed that talks had opened between a number of European

countries and Iran, and between Japan and Iran, on supply of natural gas. But they said that there was still a long way to go before any contracts were signed.

Aqazadeh, a former deputy prime minister and deputy foreign minister of Iran, also told the IHT that foreign investments in the Iranian oil and gas sector would be welcome.

The Iranian petroleum minister noted that with 17 trillion cubic metres of proven reserves, Iran had 15 per cent of the world supplies of natural gas.

Fereidou Fesharaki, leader of the energy programme at the East-West Centre in Hawaii, said that the Iran-Europe gas supply project would become commercially feasible over the next four

or five years.

"The alternative for Europe will be more expensive Russian gas or extremely costly Norwegian gas," he said.

Fesharaki pointed out that the key to the project was whether Tehran could persuade the consortium of European buyers and investors in the pipeline that "Iran will really be a reliable partner and gas supplier."

He estimated that it would cost at least \$5 billion to build a gas pipeline from Iran across Turkey into Europe.

Iran's petroleum minister said that a cheaper but less large scale proposal, which had been discussed with Moscow, would be to use an existing pipeline supplying Iranian gas to the southern region of the Soviet Union.

Trade talks

Japan raps US actions

TOKYO, June 12. (UPI): Granting by US officials could hinder trade negotiations with Japan just as they enter the critical phase, a senior Foreign Ministry official said today.

"I think we should not hear too much (being said publicly) about these kind of talks when both sides are engaged seriously (on) the points of disagreement," chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said at a regular news conference.

New, last-minute demands from the Americans are "a source of embarrassment," Watanabe remarked.

The United States and Japan are struggling to agree on broad economic reforms to cut the nearly \$30 billion annual US trade deficit with Japan.

Watanabe declined to identify the demands, but added "some comments made by the American government were an additional source of embarrassment."

Watanabe implied that the US tactics might disrupt attempts to gain consensus among various Japanese factions.

Heated discussions are under way between ministries to resolve their differing positions, he said.

The talks, dubbed the structural impediment initiative, are intended to eliminate obstacles to balanced trade between the two nations.

A final report is to be hammered out during a meeting of the two nations in Tokyo June 25 and 26. Failure to do so would jeopardize leaders of advanced nations in mid-July.

In recent weeks, US officials have grumbled that Japan was backsiding on interim agreements reached in April on such things as toughening enforcement of Japanese anti-trust law.

Japanese officials are reportedly annoyed that the United States has renewed demands that Japan peg its public works spending to a percentage of its gross national product.

IPE chief to discuss areas of co-operation

Dubai futures ties under review

SINGAPORE, June 12. (Reuters): The London-based International Petroleum Exchange's (IPE) chief executive, Peter Wildblood, is meeting with officials of Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) to discuss areas of co-operation between the two exchanges in trading Dubai crude futures.

The contract is scheduled for launch on Simex on June 21 and on IPE in the latter part of July.

Simex president Ang Swee Tian said Simex and IPE agree "it is good to have a standardised Dubai crude futures contract with similar terms, trading in our own markets."

"One area being explored in talks with IPE is whether our Dubai contracts can expire at the same time on the same day, with a single final settlement price," Ang told Reuters.

He described as "premature" speculation that both exchanges were planning to have a mutual offset system for trading Dubai futures.

As long as the Dubai contract has standardised terms on expiry and settlement, co-operation between IPE and Simex could take the form of allowing traders to have their positions opened on one exchange and squared on the other without any basic risk (price difference), Ang said.

Simex will start off with September as the first contract month while IPE will launch October as the first contract month.

"If there is to be collaboration, the scheme would be implemented with October as the first contract month," an industry source said.

Industry sources said collaboration would be mutually beneficial to Simex and IPE as the ability to hedge positions on either exchange would enlarge

the pool of traders.

"Co-operation will be positive," Tan Hup Thye, managing director of Commission House Refco (Singapore) Pte Ltd, said.

It would definitely increase liquidity and depth of the market, attracting participation from various sectors," Tan said.

"Dubai futures promises to be an alternative contract for those in the US, especially its west coast, with exposure in the Far East oil market. Most oil is now priced off West Texas Intermediate, and it would be good to have another benchmark."

Some form of Simex-IPE collaboration would be desirable as traders would be able to take advantage of price movements in different time zones, Yeong Wai Cheong, managing director of Sassoon Financial Futures Pte Ltd said.

"If there is collaboration, it would open up an 18-hour trading of Dubai," Yeong said.

Simex since 1984 has had an agreement with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) for exclusive bilateral links on trading financial futures.

Simex now expects to re-start talks with the CME for after-hours electronic trading system which would render the mutual offset link redundant and allow Simex to consider fresh links with other exchanges, the sources said.

"Eventually, we should work towards a mutual offset system between Simex and IPE on energy futures," Tan said.

"If Simex and CME can iron out details in the exclusive agreement on financial futures, Simex can then consider whether it wants to have a mutual offset agreement with other exchanges on other types of futures contracts," Tan added.

EEC sees E. Europe seeking \$12b in aid

BRUSSELS, Belgium, June 12. (AP): External relations commissioner Frans Andriessen said Monday Eastern European nations will seek \$12 billion in short to medium term financial aid from the West.

He suggested donor nations create a "multipurpose restructuring facility" to encourage economic reforms in Eastern Europe to "enhance the creditworthiness of beneficiary countries (and) act as a deterrent against speculation, encourage private investment and help stabilise exchange rates."

Andriessen said a quota system for subscriptions could be developed based on "acceptable criteria for burden-sharing" and arrangements for "managing the facility would be worked out in close co-operation with the IMF and World Bank."

The EEC commission is co-ordinating an aid programme for Poland and Hungary through which 24 donor nations have pledged \$13 billion in financial and other aid. Next month, the donor nations

will likely extend the aid package to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Initial contracts with these countries "suggest" they will request standby credits and loans similar to those for Poland and Hungary, Andriessen said.

Hungary benefits from a five-year, \$1 billion loan to help it restructure its economy and Poland has access to a \$1 billion "standby fund."

Czechoslovakia is looking for a large standby facility while Yugoslavia and Bulgaria are seeking different forms of financial support," Andriessen said.

"Taken together these and other likely requests will probably total at least 10 billion European currency units (\$12.1 billion) in the short and medium term," he said in a speech in Berlin. A text of his address to a financial conference was released by the EEC office here.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, June 12. (Reuters): Stocks closed lower almost across the board on a weakened yen and a dearth of incentives. Futures-related and index-linked selling, mostly by foreign brokers and domestic investment trusts funds, exacerbated the selling in thin trading. The 22-share Nikkei index shed 217.87 points to 32,322.11.

The United States and Japan are struggling to agree on broad economic reforms to cut the nearly \$30 billion annual US trade deficit with Japan.

Heated discussions are under way between ministries to resolve their differing positions, he said.

The talks, dubbed the structural impediment initiative, are intended to eliminate obstacles to balanced trade between the two nations.

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Medicine

New lasers erase years of anxiety

By Phillipa Neave

WESTCHESTER, New York (WNL): For over 40 years Dominick Netty was plagued by something that he thought would never go away: a dark-red birthmark that covered most of the right side of his face. Known as a port-wine stain, the mark made his life a misery. "I have been aware of it ever since I can remember," he says. "Children are cruel, they used to point at me, call me names like 'red-face.' Now 45, he still recalls being turned down by a girl he had invited to a school dance, and says he felt a 'psychological mess.'

Today his face shows only a slight redness which could pass unnoticed. For the past two years, Netty has been undergoing treatment with a new type of laser that has produced spectacular results on him and other patients: 85 per cent of his birthmark is gone.

Until only a few years ago, very little could be done for people born with port-wine stains. They were condemned to using a special type of thick make-up, which, says Netty, on a man always looked bad: "I would be afraid that under a certain light it would show and it never looked right when we would take pictures with the family."

Little is known about what causes port-wine stains. They are not genetically passed on from one generation to the other, and there are cases in which one of a set of newborn twins is marked and the other is not. The physical cause is blood vessels lying very close to the surface of the skin that are distended. It can occur anywhere on the body and can be almost unnoticeable or very dramatic, in extreme cases covering 70 per cent of the body.

Netty is one of at least 1,000 patients treated by Dr Gary Brauner, a dermatologist who is widely considered a pioneer in the use of laser technology in treating skin ailments. "We are using many different types of lasers to treat different types of conditions," explains Brauner, who has his own practice and also works at Westchester Medical Centre, north of New York City. The center is one of the most advanced in the United States and is one of only three in the country to have three different types of laser-beam equipment for use in dermatology, including a state-of-the-art model that it acquired only three months ago.

The newest laser equipment works faster, is less painful than the older models and has reduced the risk of complications. Though it doesn't replace other lasers, it holds great promise in the treatment of birthmarks.

"The first laser to be used in dermatology was the Aragon laser in the 1960s. It was not used much to treat birthmarks until 1972, but since then it has been used on thousands of patients," Brauner explained, adding that the Aragon laser works by emitting a blue-green light ray that is absorbed by the oxygen-bearing red cells in the blood. "The intense energy put out by the ray is transformed into heat, so you get a very intense burning of the blood in the vessel. It works from the inside out. The blood vessel burns and so do the tissues around it. The heat burns its way out to the surface of the skin."

The Aragon laser is also used to treat brown birthmarks known as "cafe au lait" stains, which are caused by excessive exposure to the sun, freckles, or so-called liver spots. It is used most commonly, however, to treat red lesions such as port-wine stains and "burst" vessels on the nose or cheeks. Technically the vessels haven't "burst" but have been distended. The affliction is common and is caused by various factors, such as inherited tendency, exposure to the sun, hormonal changes, especially in pregnancy, and certain diseases.

The latest and possibly most promising laser for people with port-wine stains is the "Flash-Lamp Pulsed Dye Laser," which emits a yellow ray in single pulses at short intervals. The yellow ray is better absorbed by the blood and the intensity of the burn is lower. "There is less heat dissipation from the blood vessel and therefore less injury to the outer layer of the skin," and less pain, Brauner said, which makes the treatment easier to bear for children.

Another advantage of the Pulsed Dye laser over the Aragon is that it works faster. "The Aragon laser is a lot of work. The bursts are only 1 millimetre or 1.5mm in diameter. For a skin area of 4 x 6 inches, you need 5,000 bursts. It takes about one hour; it is very painstaking and labour-intensive," the 46-year-old doctor said. "The other problem is that the burn area can become infected and leave a very thick, unsightly scar."

The Pulsed Dye laser is felt like a light pinprick, according to Brauner. "Injury to the outer layer of the skin is minimal so there is no secondary risk of infection. The laser also covers a much larger area and is therefore much faster. The only problem is that it has to be repeated multiple times over the same area, but this can be done because the area heals so quickly."

Midway between the Aragon and Pulsed Dye lasers is the "Copper-Vapor" laser, which also emits a yellow ray. "This works not with one pulse but with 15,000 tiny pulses per second. It has been in use for about three years and is more effective than the Aragon laser on blood-vessel-type marks," Brauner noted.

Another type of laser, invented in 1974 and widely used for the past 10 years, is known as the carbon dioxide laser. "It has an invisible beam and is mostly used to cut off growths because it seals the blood vessels and does not cause bleeding," said Brauner. It has a wide variety of medical uses, but in dermatology it is most effective in treating recurring scarlike growths known as keloids as well as large stubborn warts, including genital warts.

Laser technology holds great promise because it doesn't emit harmful ultraviolet light or cancer-causing X-rays. Weeks-old infants have been treated with it, and it has been suggested that port-wine stains, which grow thicker and darker with age, could be treated earlier, which would prevent psychological scarring. Other applications include the treatment of red growths known as "strawberry marks" that appear in childhood. Although these almost always disappear by the age of 7, they can have serious consequences when they appear in areas such as the mouth, the nose or eye.



Before: her face disfigured by a dark-red birthmark, this patient had lost hope to lead a normal life



After: treatment with a new type of laser used in dermatology and called Pulsed Dye Laser saw her birthmark disappear almost completely



John Lennon: victim of an obsessed fan

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Would you please explain the surgical procedure known as angioplasty? My father's doctors are advising this operation for him, but we don't know enough about it to be able to advise my dad, who has asked our opinion. Please help us make a sound decision.

Answer: Angioplasty is an effective treatment for coronary artery disease where the coronary arteries — those blood vessels that bring nutrients to the heart itself — are partially or totally "closed."

Angioplasty is accomplished by inserting a narrow balloon attached to a guiding catheter through the circulatory system to the affected coronary artery. The balloon is placed at the narrowest part of the artery and then inflated at high pressure. The expansion of the balloon forces open the material that closed the artery, creating a wider channel for blood to flow through.

There are some benefits to angioplasty, as opposed to bypass surgery. The procedure does not require surgery; it can improve the ability to exercise without heart-related pain; it may increase the so-called "quality of life"; it can reduce pain caused by angina, it requires much shorter hospital stays than bypass surgery, and it costs much less than a bypass.

Patients most likely to be considered for angioplasty include those with coronary "closings" that have occurred within the past six months, those who are also candidates for bypass surgery, and those who have "closing" in several separate parts of arteries — but not in major sections of those vessels.

There are some risks associated with angioplasty. Serious coronary complications can happen during

Angioplasty can be good alternative to bypass surgery

or after the procedure. It is more dangerous for women, particularly those over 65 years who have had bypass surgery, than for any other group. The arteries may "close" again at some point, and bypass surgery must be done if the angioplasty fails.

Nevertheless, angioplasty is a major advance in medicine. It gets safer and more practical as experience is gained in its applications. It is altogether possible that this operation will provide your dad with a new lease on life, and much more pleasure while living it.

I thought you would like to know: Many of you continue to ask about the eye condition called glaucoma, perhaps because the recent news reports about President Bush have contained statements that strike home. About two million Americans have glaucoma, and it is a leading cause of blindness in the United States. The good news is that this blindness can be prevented, when the disease is diagnosed early and the necessary treatment is prescribed.

I have found just the booklet to help you gain the knowledge you need. It's called "Glaucoma, It Can Take Your Sight Away," and may be obtained by sending your request and a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Attn: Order Clerk—GI—AB, P.O. Box 7424, San Francisco, Calif. 94120-7424.

The booklet provides clear and understandable answers about the nature of glaucoma, and its causes and symptoms. There are two illustrations that will help you understand the mechanism of this disease and an explanation of its treatment.

'Over-exposed'

Movie examines threat of fans

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): The threat of "fans" has become a fact of life for film and TV stars who have to worry about possible assaults, murder, rape or just bothersome attention taken to the extreme.

Celebrities get passionate letters every day from star-struck fans. Most actors and actresses appreciate the sentiment and the attention. But too often these days a "fan" becomes so obsessive he or she overwhelms the celebrity with cards and letters and telephone calls and presents and then ugly threats when the attention is unrequired.

John Lennon was murdered by a "fan." So was actress Rebecca Schaeffer. Actress Theresa Saldana was brutally slashed, but recovered from the attack.

It was an obsessive love for actress Jodie Foster that triggered the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. The culprit was John W. Hinckley trying to prove his love for her by knocking off the president.

Other victims of fan harassment of one kind or other include Cher, Farrah Fawcett, Sharon Gless, Rob Lowe, Tom Cruise and David Letterman. There are dozens of other cases only the victim and the police know about.

"Overexposed" — a new movie in release about a daytime soap opera star, played by Catherine Oxenberg, being stalked by a killer — takes a timely look at the phenomenon.

Director-writer Larry Brand, who also appears in the thriller, says his story treatment was in the works three to four years ago.

"Originally the treatment was prepared for Sylvester Stallone's organization to star his then-wife Brigitte Nielsen," Brand said.

"But that fell through and I put it aside until Roger Corman decided to go ahead with it."

"Overexposed" demonstrates what some celebrities are faced with," Brand said. "But I also wanted to show that such fixations don't necessarily have to

involve celebrities anyone can find themselves vulnerable. You don't have to be show business.

"It's just that celebrities are in the public eye and are, therefore, more exposed to this kind of abuse.

"Who knows how many murders and other crimes have been committed by obsessive people who have stalked individuals unknown to the public. Anyone who walks the streets can be a target.

"I've known people in that position. For men it can happen as it did in the movie "Fatal Attraction." When a woman becomes crazed with love and jealousy. You never know how these fixations manifest themselves."

According to Brand, harassment of stars is a hot topic that many people in Hollywood would just as soon not see exploited.

"But Corman is a pragmatist. He believed the media exposure of real-life situations would only help the film's commercial value.

"It's not that these obsessions are always homicidal. Often fans only want to become best friends. Sometimes they are driven by sexual desires. It can be a matter of loneliness. And it also can be dangerous.

Brand says dealing with obsessive fans goes with the territory of being a movie or television star.

"Most actors and actresses go into the business with the idea of becoming famous," he said. "So a lot of people aren't particularly sympathetic to them when they read about cases of fixations."

"Nevertheless, it is a frightening situation. Stars can minimize their exposure by keeping a low profile in public. If a star walks out of a well-known restaurant at night wearing dark glasses and flashy clothes, she is asking for recognition."

"On the other hand, they can go unnoticed if they try. I used to work for Orson Welles, and huge as he was, he could walk almost everywhere and never be recognized."

Australia's nouvelle cuisine

'Bush tucker'

By Robert Woodward

SYDNEY, (Reuters): Alongside the traditional steak, chips and meat pie, Australian menus now offer filet of kangaroo, emu egg pavlova, and witchetty grub and bunya-bunya nut soup.

Australians are discovering the culinary delights which surround them on the hoof, in the trees and buried in the ground of the world's driest continent.

"In 10 years Australia's cuisine is going to be so new, so different from the rest of the world that it's going to have an effect like nouvelle cuisine in France 10 years ago," says Sydney Chef Jean-Paul Bruneteau.

French-born Bruneteau owns the only restaurant in Australia dedicated totally to Australian cooking with some home-grown ingredients, known colloquially as "bush tucker."

Benefiting from increasing environmental awareness, a trend towards healthier eating and a fascination for aboriginal culture, the bush tucker movement has taken off in the past two years.

Bookshops contain a wide selection of cookery books extolling such dishes as bogong moth 'natural' black nightshade fritter.

The government-financed ABC network is showing a series of 30-minute programmes called "The Bush Tucker Man" which follows Les Hiddens, who trained Australian soldiers to survive on outback foods, around Australia.

In Adelaide tourists can eat medallions of kangaroo, an extremely tender meat with the consistency of silverside beef. In Sydney wattle ice cream is available — it tastes something like hazelnut nuts. And in Alice Springs, if you're feeling brave, you can try cooked witchetty grubs, the larvae of ghost moths.

Aborigine guides lead tours in the country's red centre which reveal how much of what at first sight appears to be barren desert is in fact edible and nutritious.

Eating the fleshy, white witchetty grubs — slightly bigger than a man's middle finger, crunchy and tasting something like scrambled eggs — can be the highlight of a tour. Or not.

Bruneteau offers the grubs at his suburban restaurant Rowntrees which he opened six years ago after leaving his job as cook in the Australian merchant navy.

Bruneteau was introduced to Vic Cherikoff, a nutritionist who wrote a thesis on Aboriginal food at the University of Sydney, and the two men have worked in tandem building interest in Australia's edible heritage.

Cherikoff says the early European explorers and settlers, through necessity, incorporated many

Aboriginal foods and methods into their cooking — for instance, mixing milled *burrawang* (lance nuts) with flour to make supplies last longer.

The advent of cheap mutton and beef, via improved rail and road links snuffed out interest in bush tucker and Australians settled instead for a drab, British-based diet, Cherikoff said.

"If the French had colonised Australia, Australia would have a thriving cuisine," claims Bruneteau. "It is obvious that the reason there is no definable Australian cuisine is because no one looked at how the Aborigines ate."

"We had a multi-cultural cuisine that wanted to be called Australian but I thought unless we extracted and incorporated the flavours of Australia we'd be doing nothing new."

It has been hard work convincing people the berries or leaves of common trees such as the mulga and bunya, bunya pine can enhance cooking, but Cherikoff reckons he's winning.

"There has been a phenomenal rise in interest over the past couple of years and (bush tucker) has become a topic of consuming interest to a lot of people," he said.

Cherikoff is the owner of Australia's only bush tucker supply company and is currently in the rainforests of North Queensland helping in the harvest of the fruit of the lemon aspen tree, used as a flavouring in salad dressings.

He has organised five Aboriginal communities and hundreds of families in both the city and country to collect native ingredients for him, but his collectors are environmentally aware.

"I don't totally agree with the approach of the bush tucker man as I think we should develop people's interest along with their environmental responsibilities," Cherikoff said.

After weaning Australians back onto emu eggs — equivalent to about 12 normal eggs and very rich — Cherikoff and Bruneteau both believe the nation is ready for the wattle seed.

Bruneteau had some seeds of the wattle, or Australian acacia, in his kitchen for 12 months before one day deciding to roast and mill them. He now makes wattle capuccino and ice cream, and believes wattle could soon rival vanilla and coffee as a flavouring.

"It has a huge potential as it's natural and caffeine-free — it could be the world's greatest new flavour by the turn of the century," he said.

"The French chefs in Sydney are really interested in it and I've got an importer in France who wants to take all the wattle he can get his hands on. But I want to see it established in Australia before it goes overseas."

Australians are discovering the culinary delights which surround them on the hoof, in the trees and buried in the ground. In 10 years, Australian cuisine will be so different that it would have the same effect like nouvelle cuisine in France. And seeds of the wattle are expected to rival vanilla and coffee as a flavouring in decades to come.



Sydney chef Jean-Paul Bruneteau poses with bush tucker displayed in an Aboriginal Coonawarra Billy Goat plum, native tamarind and witchetty grubs. (Reuters wirephoto)



According to WHO, about four million people in the developing world rely on traditional medicine using plants like these, prepared in drugstores in central Java, Indonesia.

Nature's medicine chest: a vanishing treasure

By Clare Pedrick

GENEVA, Switzerland, (WNL): Most people know that the foxglove produces digitoxin, which doctors use to regulate the heartbeat, and that aspirin comes from the bark of the willow tree. But did you know that the contraceptive pill is made from the Mexican yam, or that the drug which now gives hope to four out of every five children suffering from leukaemia is made from the rosy periwinkle, a plant found on the island of Madagascar?

More than one quarter of all drugs produced by the world's pharmaceutical companies are based on plants, according to studies by the United Nations' World Health Organisation (WHO). Yet, of an estimated 250,000 flowering plants believed to be in existence, only 10 per cent have been tested for medicinal properties.

The thousands of species that have yet to be examined almost certainly hold surprises, and possibly cures for some of the biggest modern-day killers, including cancer, Aids and heart disease, scientists say. But the mapping of the world's giant natural medicine chest is proving a race against time.

Pollution, building development and the clearing of the tropical rainforests have already wiped out an estimated 15 per cent of all known plants. Half the Earth's varieties are to be found in the warm, wet climate of the rainforests, currently disappearing at the rate of 100 acres a minute. Conservatives estimate that five species are obliterated every day. By the year 2050, they say, 60,000 plant types, or one in four, could be extinct.

"The scale of destruction is dramatic," said Paul Wachtel at the headquarters of the World Life Fund for Nature (WWF) in Gland, near Geneva. "We are losing plants that have not even been identified and that could possibly have provided us with life-saving medicines."

In the United States, scientists at the National Cancer Institute near Washington, D.C., are currently screening about 10,000 substances a year, including flowering plants, algae and fungi, in an attempt to find a breakthrough for Aids and for more than 100 different types of cancer. The institute has awarded grants to botanical societies and universities throughout the world to help them collect, identify and test plant species.

Initial results have proved encouraging. The screening of 18,000 marine plants and organisms produced what researchers describe as "several interesting leads"; one of them, a substance named as Dideaminine B, isolated from a Caribbean invertebrate called a sea squirt, has already entered clinical trials.

In separate research programmes, scientists found that cancer of the lungs, kidneys and testes respond to Etoposide, a drug produced by Mayapple, long used by American Indians for the treatment of warts. Researchers looking for an Aids vaccine say they are interested by compounds found in an Amazonian oak tree and a variety of Australian chestnut. A complex sugar found in the Japanese white pine has shown some success in killing the Aids virus in laboratory conditions. It too has entered clinical trials.

"At the moment it's impossible to say how important this discovery will be, but it could possibly lead to a better understanding of the Aids virus and ultimately a cure," Wachtel said. "The problem is there is a risk many varieties will disappear before we can get to them. Japan's white pine forests, for example, are being threatened by population pressure and by over-collection of bonsai."

On the same note, Dr Michael Blaik of the New Pollution, building and the clearing of tropical rainforests have already wiped out an estimated 15 per cent of all known plants. If you take away forests, you take away the health care system for 80 per cent of the developing world. The threat is particularly serious for the developing world which relies heavily on natural medicine.

LAWRENCEVILLE, New Jersey, (UPI): A Vatican museum official has embarked on an international tour to make sure the controversial restoration of Michelangelo's acclaimed frescoes in the Sistine Chapel is properly understood.

The restoration project undertaken to clean 400 years of grime from the artist's work. The unveiling of the frescoes in December unleashed a storm of controversy, including charges that the restorers had altered the 16th century masterpiece in the principal chapel in the Vatican in Rome.

"The controversy has already died down. But some critics may never change their minds," said Walter Persegati, the Vatican's international arts co-ordinator and former secretary general and treasurer of the Vatican Museum.

"It is very difficult for an art historian who has taken a stand to change. But some of them are not really at fault. When they saw we are destroying the work of Michelangelo, they don't know the care that we took in trying to find out what Michelangelo

really did. During a recent visit to New Jersey, more than 500 people packed an auditorium at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville to hear Persegati describe the 10-year \$4.2 million restoration.

Later trips will take him to other US cities and to Canada and Japan.

Persegati said even his more than 40 years among the art works in the Vatican could not prepare him for the thrill of seeing Michelangelo's work unveiled.

"The colour was the discovery," Persegati said. "For centuries there was the belief that Michelangelo did not use colours. There was a belief that he bathed everything in darkness."

"Seeing them coming out after the cleaning, it was like a cultural shock to see those colours had to be expected. Those were the colours of his time," Persegati said.

Dramatic before-and-after film of the frescoes drew applause as bright, almost contemporary colours emerged like

magic under the sterilized sponge of Vatican technicians.

Michelangelo decorated the Sistine Chapel's walls and ceiling with fresco — painting with watercolours on wet plaster.

Debate over the restoration has centred on what he has done after the fresco had dried.

"He used a secco, mixing colours with glue and applying it to the fresco after it dried," Persegati said. "But he used that very sparingly and only to alter the volume of a body — to make an arm larger, to change the fine of forehead, maybe."

Persegati answered charges that restorers removed Michelangelo's secco work by showing slides of cross-sections of the frescoes that were examined for up to six months before restoration began.

Under the microscope, Michelangelo's corrections formed a thin layer of paint tight against the plaster. Work by intervening restorers is separated by a layer of soot and dust.

During the cleaning, he said, Vatican technicians noted the original a secco work and left it intact, removing only the later,

clumsier painting done over the centuries by less-skilled restorers.

Persegati said that controversy aside, the job was technically simple.

"Really, the cleaning of the Michelangelo frescoes is a very easy one," Persegati said. "Michelangelo followed very scrupulously the rules of the good fresco making, using the colours and the plaster well."

He said the cleaning showed Michelangelo used contrasting colours closely applied, but not blended, to add dimension to his figures, connecting his style more closely to other painters of his time.

Some early viewers of the restored fresco said the newly cleaned figures seemed to lack depth.

"Maybe for the first six months we left on the lighting that was used for lighting the dirty fresco," Persegati explained.

"The dirty fresco needed a lot of light because otherwise you see nothing. That makes the new ones look flat. Now we have the electric lights turned off and you see them lit as Michelangelo

wanted them to be seen."

The final task is to protect the fresco. The dust, the exhalations, and even the perfumes worn by tourists could again darken the fresco if nothing were done.

To meet the challenge, a computerized climate control system by the Carrier Corp will be installed by the end of the year, Persegati said.

The system will keep the chapel at 72 degrees (22 C and 55 per cent humidity to help stabilize the frescoes. More importantly, it will filter out both dust and gases and positively pressurize the building, causing air to flow out through any openings and keep out pollution. Persegati said.

The restoration project is being paid for by Nippon Television Network of Japan, in return for exclusive rights to all images produced of the frescoes for three years. The Vatican had unsuccessfully sought financial support in Italy and the United States.

Nippon also has agreed to pay for the Vatican's \$5 million cleanup of Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment*, a task expected to take four to five years.

What's the bottom line in finding Mr Perfect?

By Kate Saunders

What's your idea of the perfect man? Tough and athletic — a Rambo of the suburbs, all shoulders and rippling muscles?

Or perhaps your taste runs to the more sensitive type, vibrant sexuality lurking beneath the cool, intelligent exterior?

Try this quiz and add up your score to see how close you are to finding your ideal man and then read what some of the world's most attractive women look for in a mate. And why an expert believes the shape of his rear is all-important.

1. Would you submit yourself to a man with tremendous personal ambition and drive:

- a. without a doubt?
 - b. reluctantly?
 - c. never?
 - d. only if he worked for you?
2. On that vital first date would you want to be:
- a. surprised and taken aback?
 - b. shown off in an exclusive spot?
 - c. asked what to do and where to go?
 - d. an equal partner?
3. Do you prefer a male who is:
- a. studious and well read?
 - b. sporty and athletic?
 - c. relaxed and cosy?
 - d. well-groomed and beautifully dressed?
4. Is it important for a man to:
- a. take lots of exercise?
 - b. take some exercise?
 - c. avoid exercise whenever possible?
 - d. take your advice on exercise?

5. Would you want a man to:

- a. do all the housework?
- b. leave the home to you?
- c. share the home chores equally?
- d. hire a housekeeper for you both?

6. Should a man be romantically persistent, even if you reject his amorous advances:

- a. naturally?
- b. not at all?
- c. I never refuse!
- d. at a decent interval?

7. Would your dream night be spent:

- a. alone at his home?
- b. out on the razzle?
- c. chatting over a quiet dinner?
- d. all of these things?

8. Do you judge a man's sexual performance by:

- a. the time he takes?
- b. the care he takes?
- c. the gifts he brings?
- d. the number of times he comes back for more in one night?

9. Would you prefer your man to dress:

- a. casually?
- b. expensively?
- c. correctly for every occasion?
- d. you prefer him undressed?

10. Would you judge a man who asked to borrow money from you as:

- a. strong?
- b. greedy?
- c. pathetic?

d. disorganized but lovable?

YOUR SCORE

	a	b	c	d
1	5	3	1	2
2	5	3	1	3
3	5	3	1	2
4	5	3	1	5
5	5	3	1	2
6	1	3	1	2
7	2	3	1	5
8	2	1	5	3
9	5	3	1	3
10	5	3	2	1

THE VERDICT

50-40: SHRINKING VIOLET

You are looking for a strong, dominant male — well organised, rich, successful and completely ruthless in getting what he wants. Very often, however, he will put your needs at the bottom of his list of priorities. But you don't think you're all that important a person anyway. Get rid of that idea immediately!

38-30: GO-GO GIRL

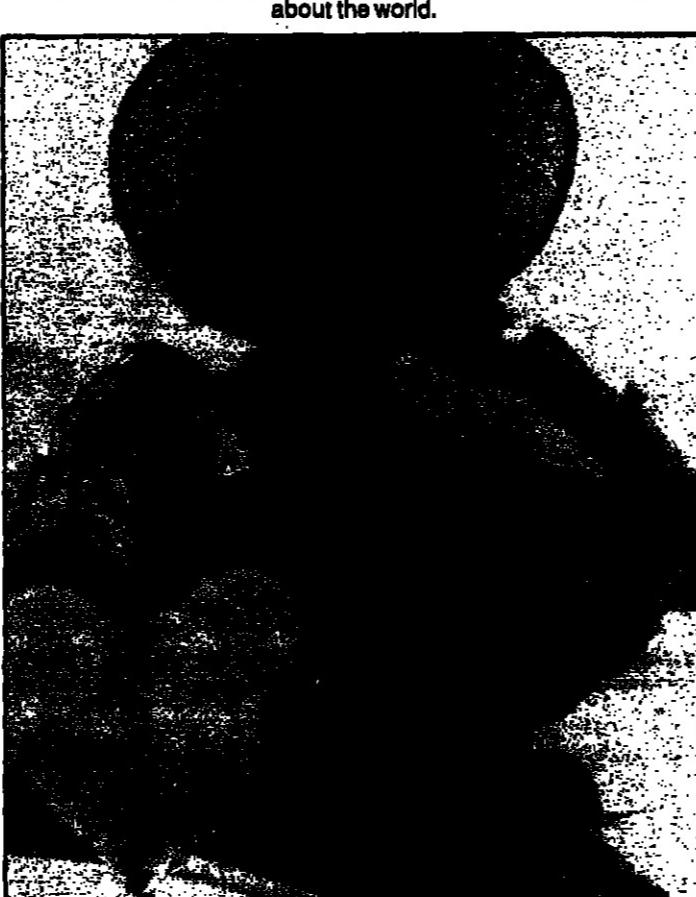
You're one for the action all right. What you want is a handsome hunk who knows his way around and is prepared to make you a flashy accessory to his comfortable lifestyle. Unlike, though, that you'll be his only female accessory. He is almost certain to have one or two other female admirers tucked away — now and in the future.

28-20: YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIAST

There's a strong streak of the mother in you. The man you need is definitely younger than you — cautious, uncertain and needing to be taught a lot about life. You will be able to mould and fashion him exactly as you would like and enjoy doing it. Don't make too much of a man of him, though — he might cast you off for a young girl he can mould himself.

18-10: PERFECT MATE

That's exactly what you are — and you long for the man in your life to be exactly the same. You are a well-balanced person, able to fight for your own needs yet willing to see other people's. A true partnership is what you dream of — unless, of course, you've found it already. In which case, thoughts of other men very rarely enter your head.



Actress Susannah York likes a good sense of humour.

'How to make love....' controversy Movie opens in New York

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): An autobiographical film based on the sexual exploits of a Haitian man in Canada has drawn criticism from black activists who find it difficult to get past the movie's title.

How To Make Love To A Negro Without Getting Tired opens this month in four New York theatres, and is scheduled to play in one Los Angeles movie house in mid-July.

While distributors have billed the movie as a positive, "ennobling" portrayal of a black man, at least one Los Angeles activist group has already expressed concern over the film's title.

"We considered it to be offensive to us because it perpetuates a stereotype of black people being inhumanly sexual beings," said Elaine Pounds, director of the Los Angeles black media coalition.

Meanwhile, on the east coast, one New York theatre refused to screen the movie because of the controversy and the Boston Globe would not run its ads.

On the same note, Dr Michael Blaik of the New

Times and the Daily News in New York agreed to run ads for the film reading *How To Make Love....* The rest of the title appears in French, which is spoken in Haiti, in much smaller print at the bottom of the ads.

A similar advertising compromise will probably be reached with daily newspapers in Los Angeles, said Joseph Saleh, president of Angelika Films, the movie's distributor. Saleh said the Village Voice and other alternative east coast newspapers have run the movie's full title.

The one Los Angeles theatre that has committed to screening the film, Laemmle's Fine Arts in Beverly Hills, plans a marquee that simply reads *How To Make Love....*

"The fact that they're shortening the title helps," Pounds said. "At least we won't have to drive down the street and see this on a marquee."

Last summer, Pounds began writing to Angelika, expressing her group's concern over the film's title. She said, however, she

has been unable to see the movie before its release and the coalition, which consists of about 20 people, has yet to plan an official stand on the movie's title.

How To Make Love To A Negro Without Getting Tired is a comedy based on an autobiographical novel by Danny Laferriere, a Haitian writer who now lives in Montreal. It's the story of a black man's exploits in a foreign country with white women who are eager to have sex with him. The movie is in French with English subtitles.

Although the film — clearly out of the mainstream of the anticipated summer blockbusters — will have extremely limited distribution, Pounds said she has received several telephone calls from members of the black community who heard about the movie and bristled at its title.

"My problem is that the title perpetuates a negative stereotype, and a stereotype which further isolates us as a people and suggests that we are somehow different than everybody else," Pounds

said.

Henry Dotson, treasurer at the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP, expressed similar scepticism.

"My immediate reaction is that I would not be in favour of such a title," Dotson said.

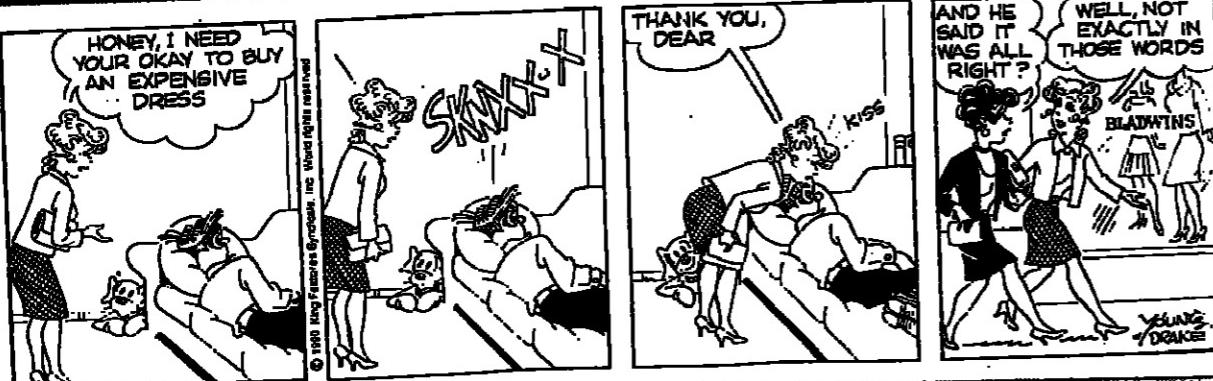
"We have to be very careful about the subtle inferences that have been passed," Dotson said.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colour People, or NAACP, has taken no official stand on the film, he said.

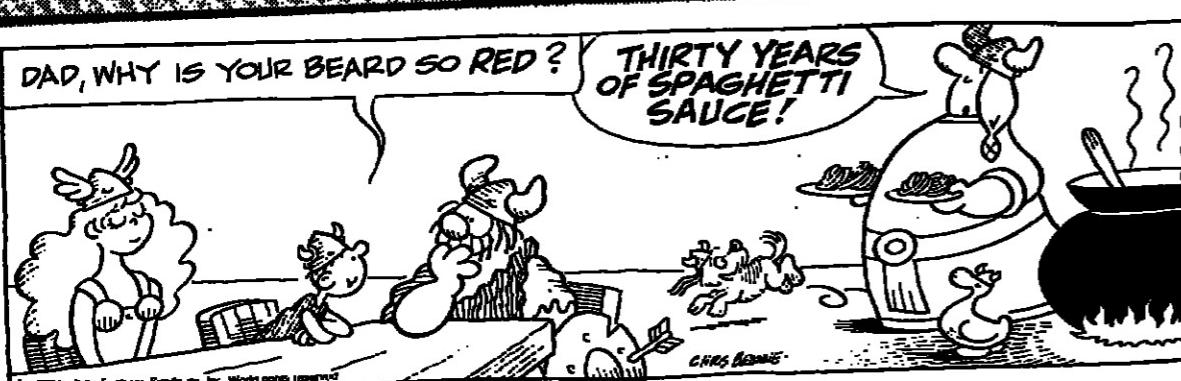
Pounds said she has read Laferriere's novel and was not impressed with his prose, which was critically acclaimed in Canada. Pounds said she was particularly bothered by apparently derogatory references the author made to other races.

LEISURE

LONDON — THE WORLD & GARDENING



MORTON'S HORRIBLE — BY JOHN HART



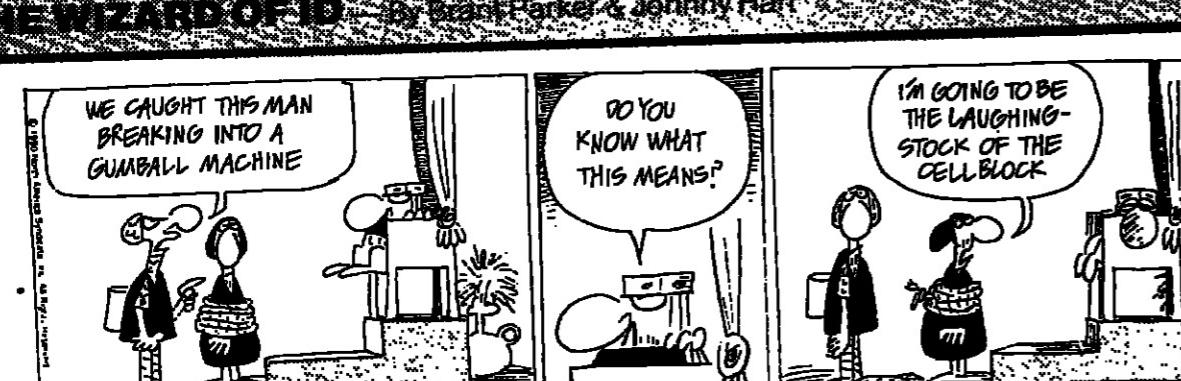
MORTON'S CRIMES — BY JOHN HART



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Gary Larson & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP — By Johnny Hart



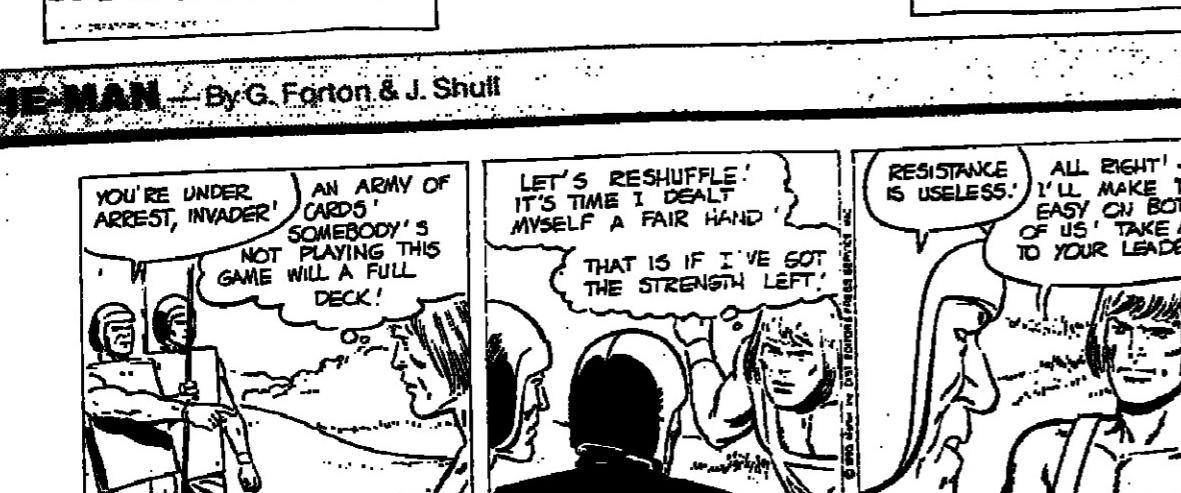
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



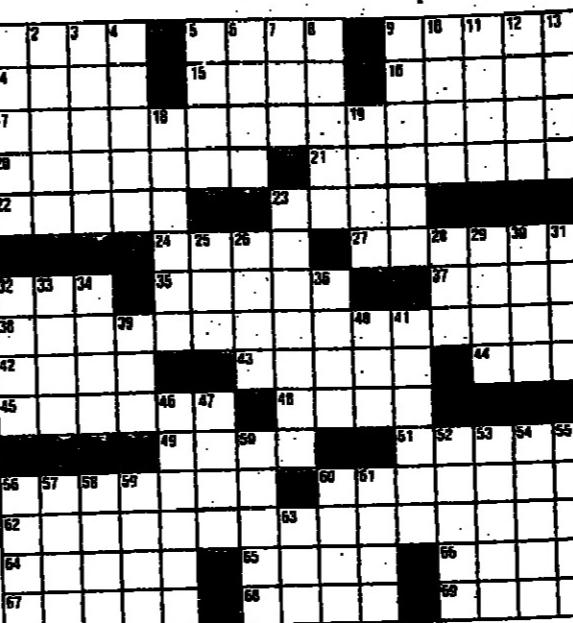
THE MAN — By G. Fenton & J. Shull



INVASION — By G. Fenton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 European range
3 Versifiers
4 Tee off
5 Writer Grey
6 Is indebted
7 Brown of renown
8 Something of value
9 Fertilizer ingredient
10 'Dear me!'
11 Freshwater fish
12 Decade
13 Fewer
14 Mug
15 Madrid matrons: Abbr.
23 Fervent requests
25 Corrida cheer
26 Verdi opera
28 Tot up
29 Meat for schnitzel
30 "Born Free" honest
31 Stadium sounds
32 Trick that deludes

DOWN

1 Chic Colorado resort
2 Fictional Doone
3 Versifiers
4 Tee off
5 Writer Grey
6 Is indebted
7 Brown of renown
8 Something of value
9 Fertilizer ingredient
10 'Dear me!'
11 Freshwater fish
12 Decade
13 Fewer
14 Mug
15 Madrid matrons: Abbr.
16 Source of oil
17 Race track highlight
20 Participants in 17 Across
21 Parts of pencils
22 Cartoonist Thomas and family
23 School orgs.
24 Fly high
27 Little squirt
32 Health resort
35 Inventor Howe
37 Novelist Mazo — Roche
38 Track meet highlight
42 Comedian Johnson
43 Eaglet's home
44 — Cruces, N.M.
45 — up: cluttered
48 Extreme anger
49 Gypsy Rose et al.
51 Small valleys
56 Public disgrace
60 Gorge
62 Field day highlight
64 Anxious
65 Innermost part
66 Baker's need
67 Rouses to action
68 "On Your —"
69 Decorate again

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

DYAD	MERV	POLAR
RATE	IRAE	ADAGE
ALOE	SOFT	SPOKEN
MUPPETS	PARENT	SLY
SLEEK	SPREW	RAE
TEXAS	ROAD	THRESH
UNIT	MARTY	APSE
BATE	ADULT	ROOT
CHARLIEN	ANTE	DANCES
REDSEA	DEMANDS	THROE
UNDERCOVER	DIRK	CHA
SCIENT	LEAK	LIEN
HEROES	DEFY	JOE

DOWN

1 Chic Colorado resort
2 Fictional Doone
3 Versifiers
4 Tee off
5 Writer Grey
6 Is indebted
7 Brown of renown
8 Something of value
9 Fertilizer ingredient
10 'Dear me!'
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66 Baker's need
67 Rouses to action
68 "On Your —"
69 Decorate again

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦J7 ♠K9 ♦AQJ32 ♠QJ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Partner's bid of two spades is a reverse—don't let anyone tell you otherwise. You are in the slam zone and everything hinges on whether or not partner has a club control. Jump to five hearts to show slam interest with two losers in the unbid suit. Partner should have no problem knowing what to do.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦8643 ♠1097 ♦942 ♠QK10

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Many players are under the impression that a jump rebid of two no trump is forcing. Not so. It is a "limit" bid showing 19-20 points and responder should go on to game only if he thinks there are sufficient values for getting home. With a flat, sub-minimum hand there is no reason for South to bid on. Pass.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦A83 ♠10952 ♦J97 ♠Q83

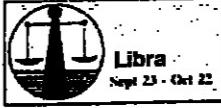
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You have a pretty good hand, but not quite enough to go to game without a little extra help from partner. Jump to three hearts. That is invitational, shows a good six-card suit and asks partner to decide if his hand is suitable for game.



YOUR STARS

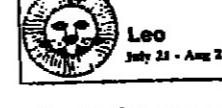
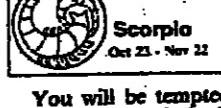
Aries
March 21 - April 19Cancer
June 21 - July 22Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You should try to think constructively and take your mind off negative thoughts. Keep calm whilst dealing with an irritable person. Do not allow work to take over your life completely. Be courteous.

You will have to keep your wits very much about you. Something that you had feared might not happen. Make sure you do not do anything that would be bad for your health. Be to the point.

If you have an appointment make sure you are not late for it, better a little early. Take special care not to let someone into a secret. You are tending to get set in your habits and should try to avoid it. Be more patient.

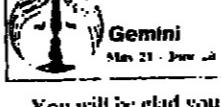
A tendency towards slothfulness will have to be overcome. You will have an opportunity to remedy a mistake and should not be slow to take it. Keep your head high but do not do anything that is arrogant or condescending. Be trustworthy.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20Leo
July 23 - Aug. 22Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

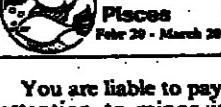
Ensure that you get sufficient rest as well as plenty of exercise. Keep within safe and proper limits. You will tend to start off in the wrong direction but there is still a hobby to get too much of hold of you. Be amenable.

You will be tempted to throw caution to the wind where expenditure is concerned. If you do you will come to regret it, so take care you do not. You should not allow your enthusiasm to flag but nor should you be enthusiastic about some triviality. Be conscientious.

You will be glad you persevered with acquiring a skill which seemed you would never learn. Do not take too much for granted but nor should you doubt everything. Make sure you keep a promise you made some time ago. Be more cautious.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20Virgo
Aug. 22 - Sept. 21

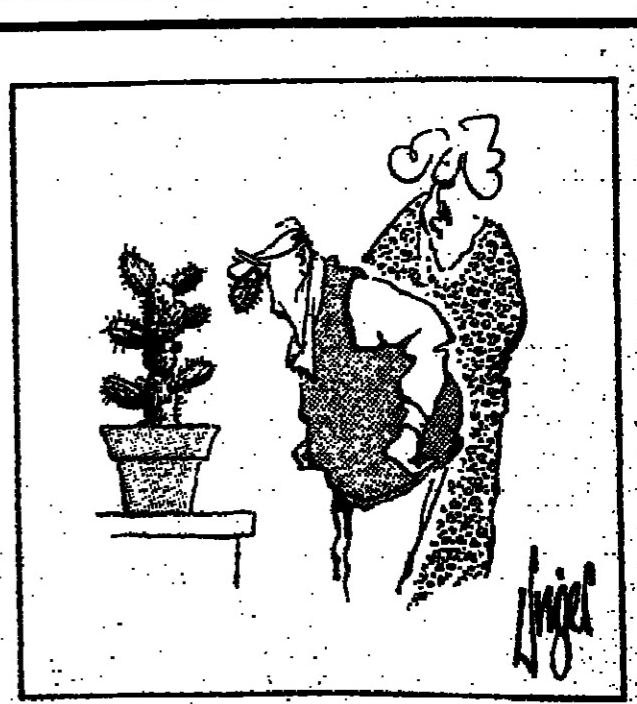
Something you have been meaning to do for a long time should be attended to without further delay. Your hobby numbers are 6 and 27. You will tend to tire rather easily and should ensure you get enough rest. Try to dress comfortably but not untidily. Be forgiving.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 19

You are liable to pay too much attention to minor issues and should try to refrain from doing so. Avoid getting into an argument and cut it short if you do. Do not retell more than on reason. Be tactful.



"He fetched it upside down again."



"I told you it didn't smell."

Dear Junior Readers,

Swimming is one of the most popular summer pastimes in Kuwait. Some people enjoy swimming in swimming pools, but salty

water usually gets more attention. Kuwait is surrounded by beautiful sandy shores meaning people from all parts of Kuwait are never too far from the beach. Not all of the beaches are safe though and it is advisable to swim

only in the popular areas. Secluded beaches are sometimes very attractive but they may be very dangerous too. The current may be too strong and you may find yourself drifting too far offshore; or the sand may be too soft and you start

to sink without noticing. If you go to the beach with a group of friends try to be careful and do not feel daring. Life is very precious gift which is not worth toying with.

Manal

BEACH
CARD
CHRISTMAS
DEBUT
ELECTION
FAREWELL
GRADUATION
HALLOWEEN
LAWN
MAY DAY

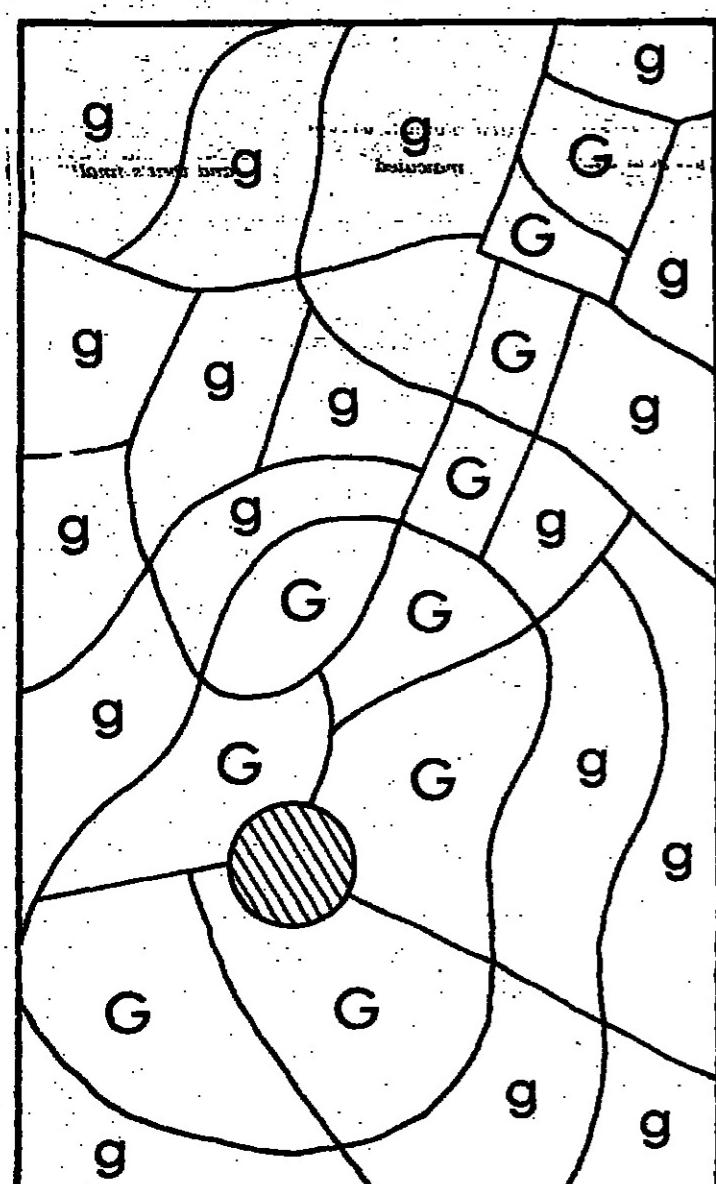
Wordsearch

LET'S PARTY

T	R	E	S	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C
L	U	T	N	N	G	A	D	Y	A	M		
T	A	B	B	O	N	V	I	L	E	R	E	
G	R	E	E	I	I	L	L	E	A	S		
T	R	E	A	D	C	T	O	T	R	O	R	
N	S	C	N	T	S	W	A	E	A	R	O	
O	H	H	O	I	E	R	U	U	P	K	A	
I	R	R	O	E	T	N	A	R	D	R	S	
T	Y	O	N	W	I	N	I	E	A	L	A	
C	H	E	E	O	E	S	E	W	Y	L	R	
E	V	E	N	A	E	R	E	L	W	G	G	
L	L	O	O	E	L	L	A	A	E	E	R	
E	W	W	O	T	L	N	W	A	L	V	I	



Color the 'g' spaces one color. Color the spaces with the capital 'G's another color. What do you see that begins with g?

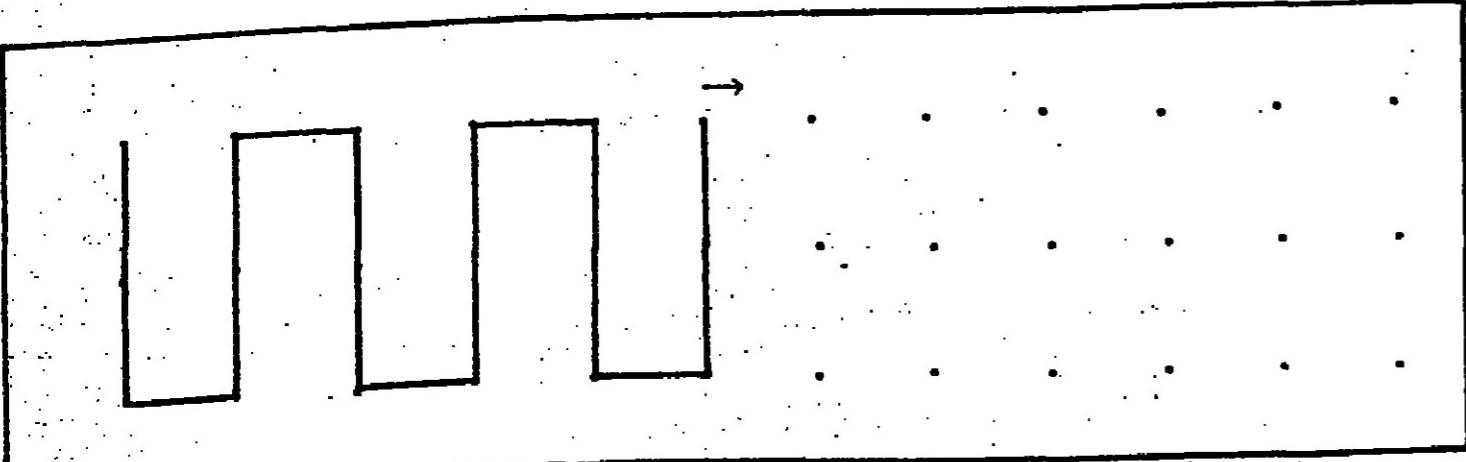


Write the missing letter.

uitar

Draw

Complete all the shapes.



Join the dots



Champion

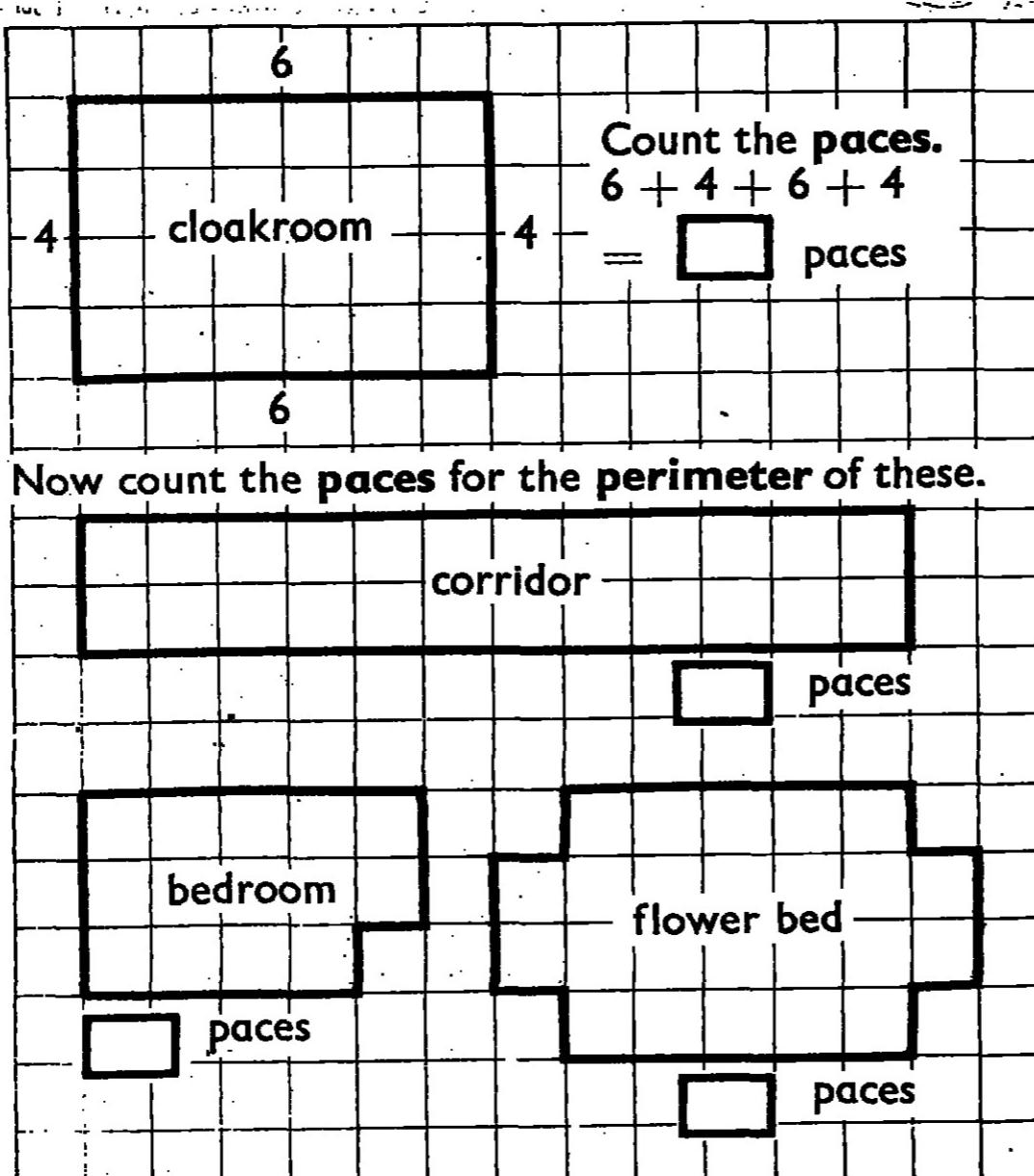
Number fun

Write:	Copy: Six		seven		eight		nine		ten
--------	-----------	--	-------	--	-------	--	------	--	-----

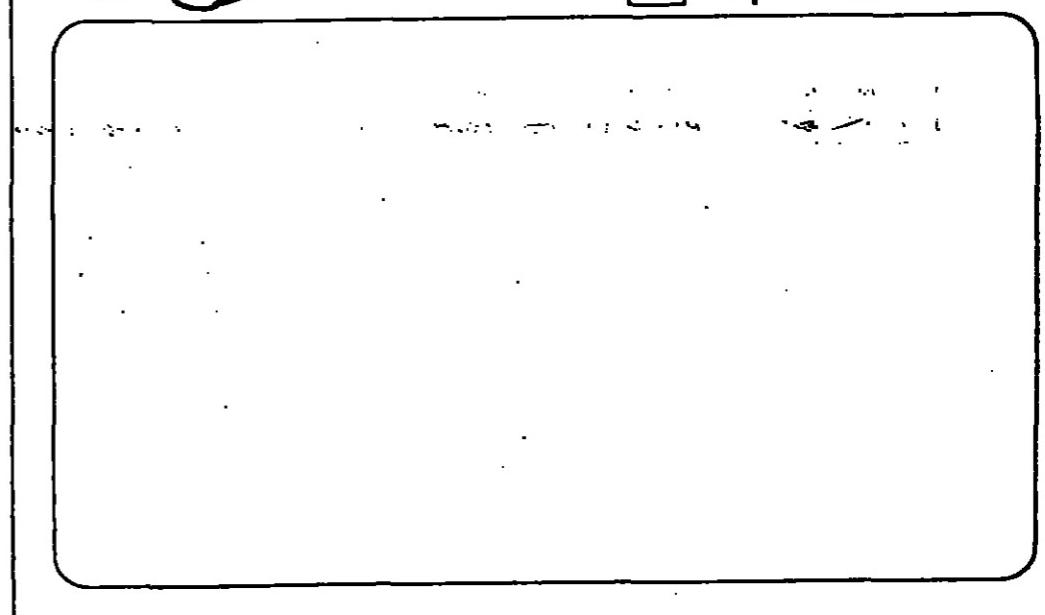
nine	S		

Measuring round a shape - perimeter

John decided to measure the distance round his cloakroom. He paced it. He drew this plan using one square for one pace. He then did the same for the other 3.



How many cupfuls of water can you get out of a full kettle? cupfuls.



Draw and colour the cups in the set.

Read each question. Color all the pictures that correctly answer the question.

1. Which things would you take to the park?



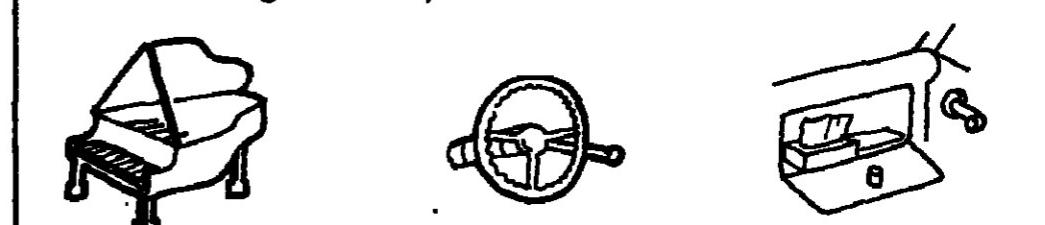
2. Which things would you find in the water?



3. Which things would you use to build a treehouse?



4. Which things would you find inside a car?



Just for laughs!

'I've made the chicken soup for lunch today,' said big sister proudly to her small brother.

'Thank goodness for that,' said the wort, 'I thought it was for us.'

Sister: 'Try some of my sponge cake.'

Brother: '(Nibbling on a piece) It's a bit tough, isn't it?'

Sister: 'Yes, I can't understand it. I bought the sponge fresh from the chemist this morning!'

What trees do fingers and thumbs grow on?
Palm trees.

While civilisations grew up and flourished in Europe and Asia, people in other continents were independently learning the arts of civilisation — building towns and villages, farming and making discoveries that improved their lives. But the outside world knew little of the peoples in deepest Africa, south of the Sahara, and nothing at all of the Americas.

The Americas

Long before the first Europeans reached North America, a Mongoloid people (later called 'Red Indians' or 'American Indians') were spread throughout the continent. They had come originally from Asia, some 20,000 years ago. They followed wandering animals — their only food supply — across a land bridge that in those days linked Siberia with

The Unseen Worlds

Alaska across the Bering Strait.

Eskimos, also originally from the heartland of Asia, followed a similar route. But it is thought that they probably reached North America in boats many thousands of years later.

The Indians travelled southwards until they had occupied most of North and South America. But those who settled north of the Rio Grande remained a primitive and loosely linked society of tribes. The Indians adapted to the different geographical and climatic conditions of the lands where they settled. They evolved into four broad groups — hunters,

gatherers, fishermen, and farmers — each with its own regions of operation.

In the south, from the Gulf of California to Guatemala, the Indians learned to grow maize, and developed an advanced civilisation. These Indians included the Aztec, Maya, and Toltec.

Black Africa

Between 1.75 million and 600,000 years ago, Africa was the home of an intelligent, ape-like creature that was probably one of man's early ancestors. But from those far-off days until the AD 800s, almost nothing is known of the history of the main part of the continent, lying south of the Sahara, and

known as 'Black Africa.'

Knowledge of 'Black Africa' is scanty because its peoples for many hundreds of years were unable to read or write and, as a result, left few records of their presence. They were also very late in learning about and using the wheel. The wheel has been one of man's greatest aids to civilisation. But there was some communication and trade between the two Africas across the desert wastes of the Sahara. Adventurous Arabs travelled southwards and took salt with them to exchange for gold, hides, ostrich feathers, ivory, and slaves.

Among the many kingdoms and states that arose

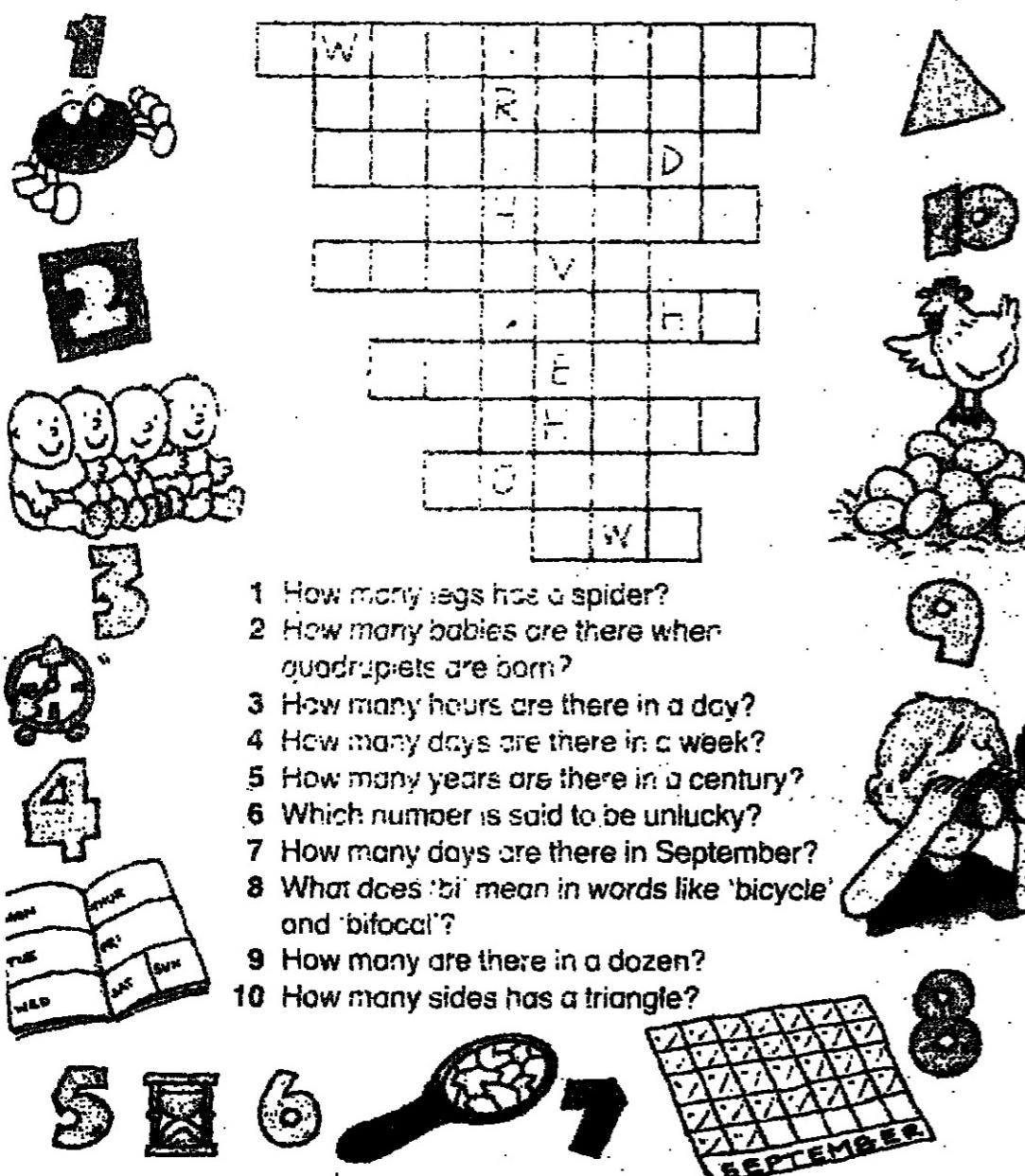


A stone figure from Guatemala where the Mayan civilisation flourished from AD 300 to 900. Ceremonial centres discovered in the jungles show that these people were great builders and fine craftsmen.

at the southern edge of the desert, Ghana was at first the most important. But in the 1000s and 1100s other kingdoms flourished in the Oyo empire of the western Africa, and through Arab influence became major centres of Muslim culture. They included Mali, Songhai, the Oyo empire of the Yoruba, and Benin.

Number grid

Each of the questions below is answered by a number. Answer all the questions, then fit the numbers (in words) into the grid. One letter of each word has already been filled in to help you.



Baby of the Week



Haitham Farry is this week's Baby of the Week. He has turned 8 weeks recently and is Junior Times' youngest reader yet!

Amazing facts

A tortoise which died in Devon, England in 1977 had lived for over 116 years.

It has been estimated that there are an average of 50,000 spiders per acre of green land, and that they destroy 100 times their number in insects.

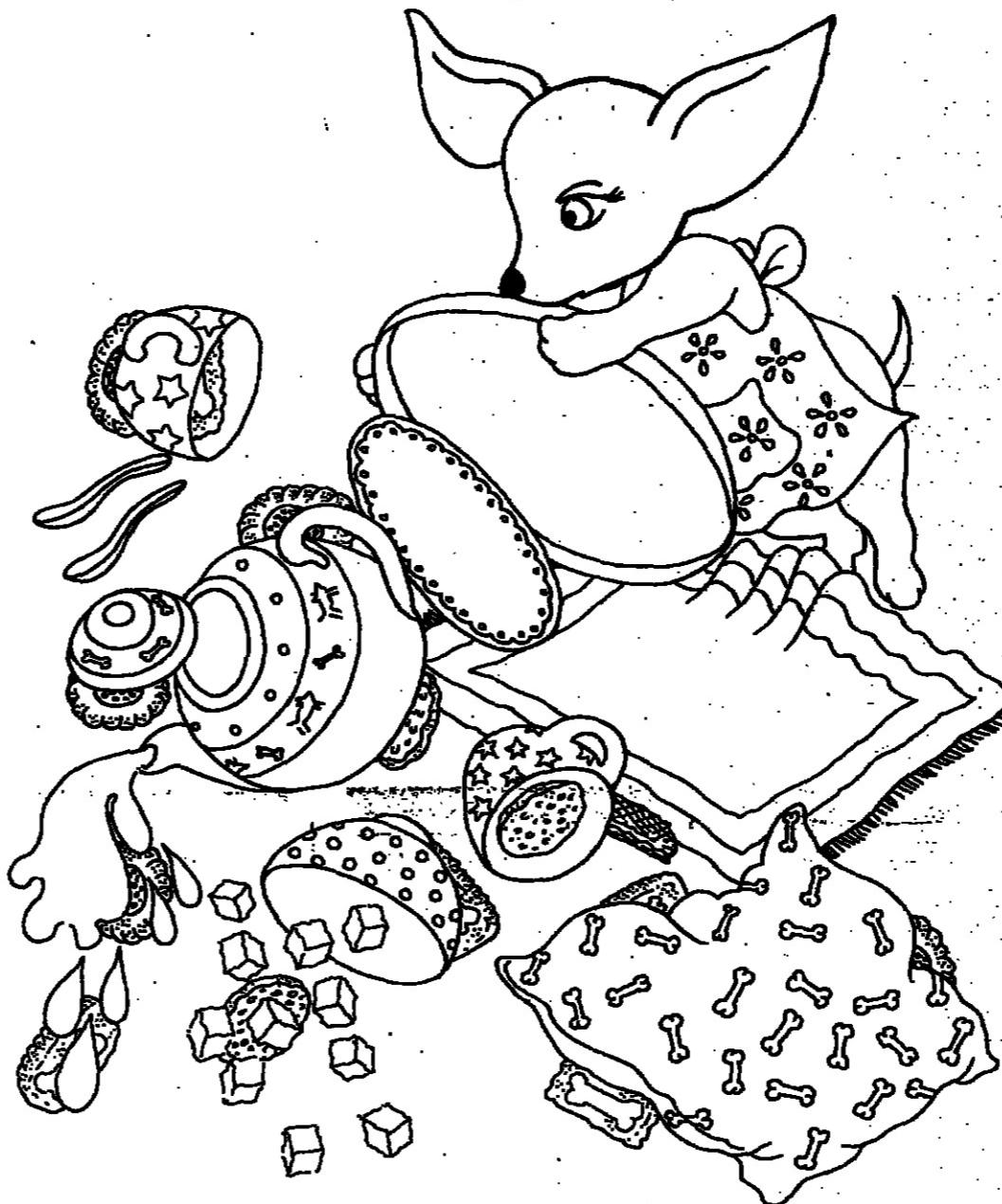
The dromedary is a one-humped Arabian camel which is specially bred for speed. A good one can run 110 km (70 mi) a day.

The water flea of northern Europe measures a mere 0.25 mm (0.1 in) from top to toe. This means it would take nearly 16,000 water fleas standing on each other's backs to reach the shoulder of the tallest elephant ever seen, a 4m (13ft) giant shot in Angola in 1974.

A mollusc called the sea hare can lay over a million eggs a day.

The coelacanth is a fish which was believed to have been extinct for 60 million years but it had been regularly caught by fishermen off the coast of South Africa, a fact not discovered by scientists until 1938.

Cornelia has dropped the tea tray.
How many biscuits can you see?



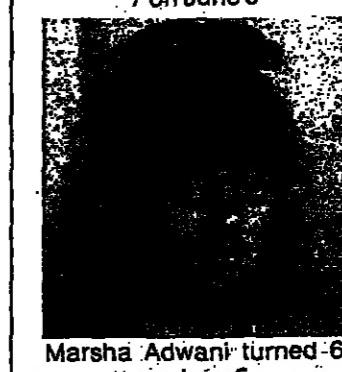
Happy birthday



Soujanya Cheruvu turned 7 on June 5



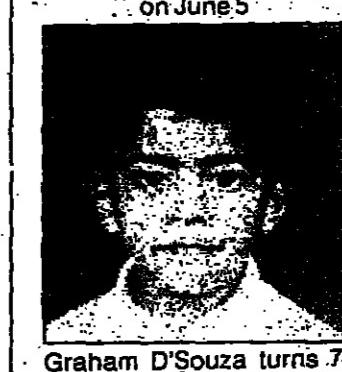
Melany Paul turned 7 on June 11



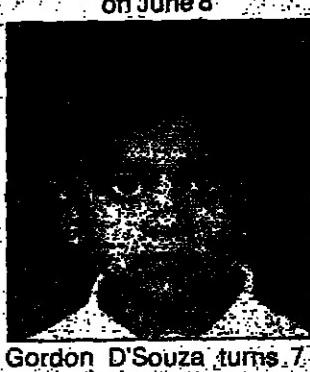
Marsha Adwani turned 6 on June 5



Eugene Pereira turned 3 on June 8



Graham D'Souza turns 7 on June 13



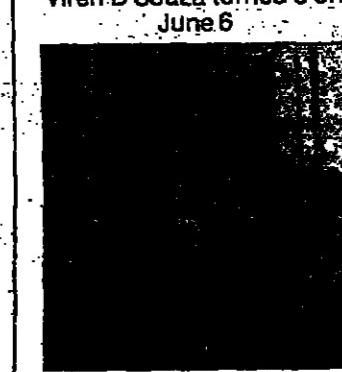
Gordon D'Souza turns 7 on June 13



Viren D'Souza turned 8 on June 6



Princy D'Souza turns 4 on June 11



Ranjeet Nayani turned 6 on June 7



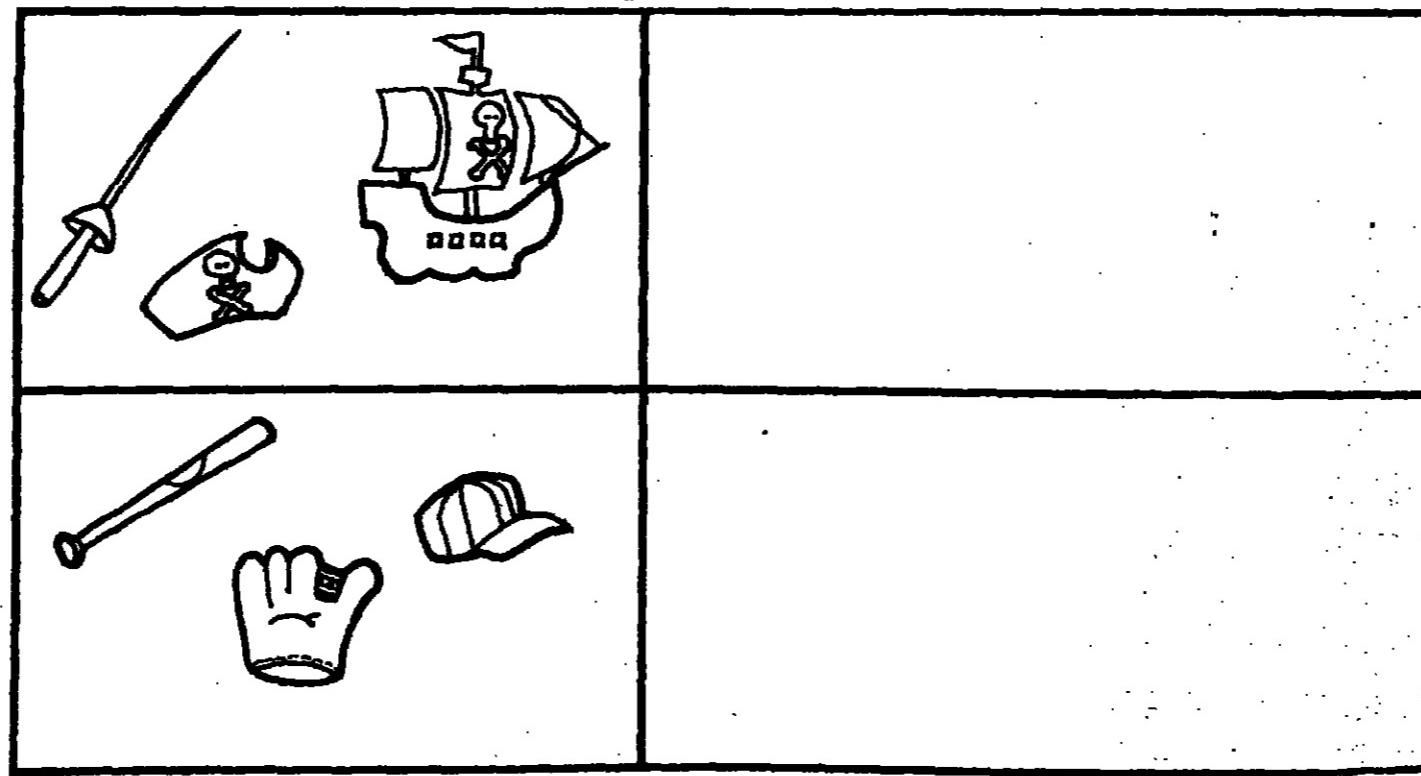
Sachin Kamath turned 8 on June 7

Print the two-letter digraph you hear at the beginning of the words. Color the pictures.



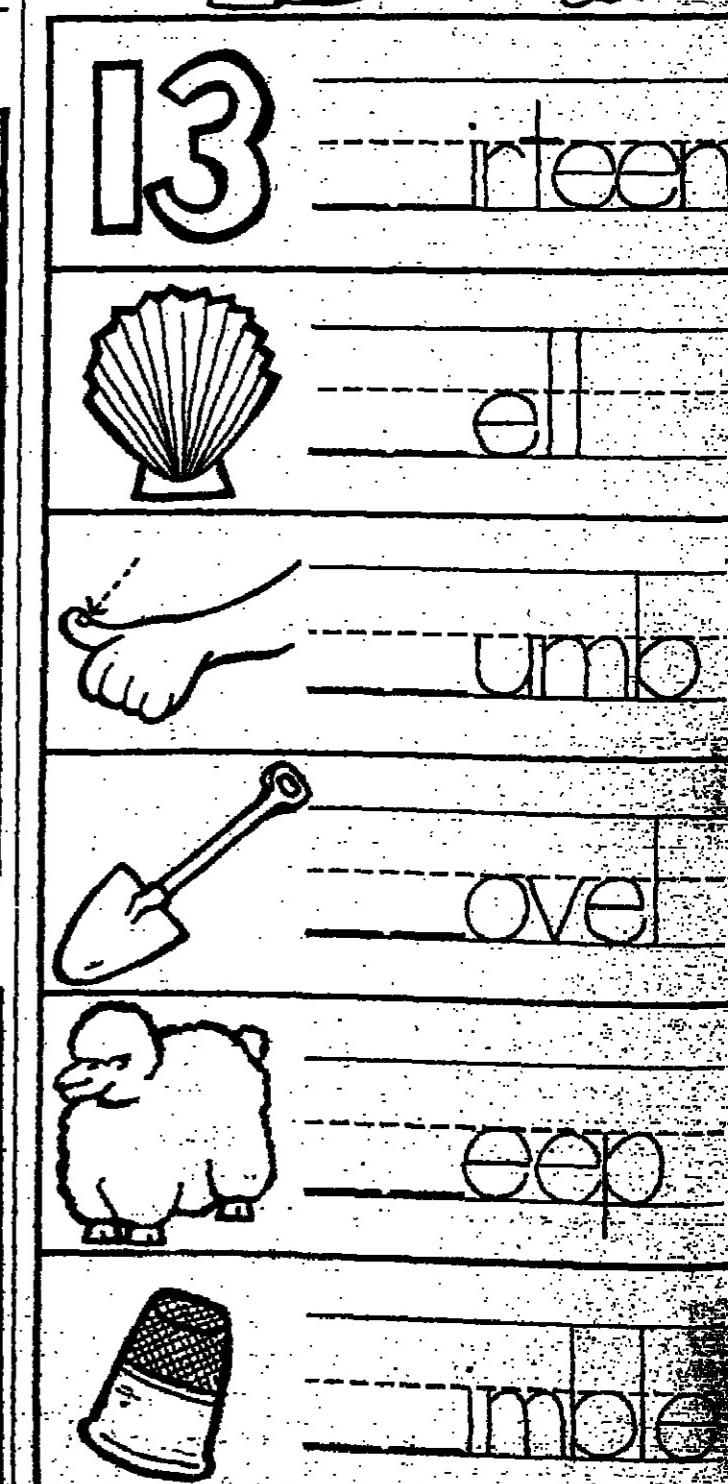
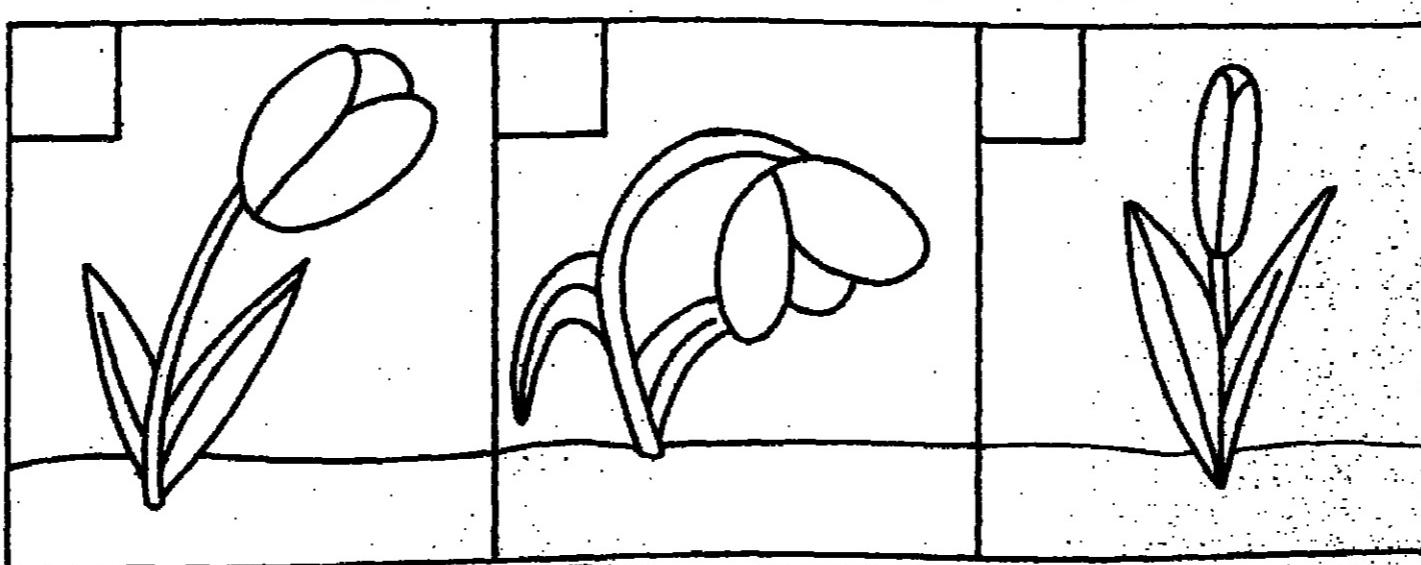
Who do they belong to?

Look at the three objects on the left. Then draw a picture on the right that shows whom may own the objects.



The right order

Number each set of pictures 1, 2 and 3 so that they tell the story in the correct order.



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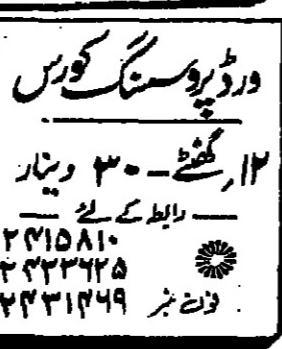
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England held to 1-1 draw

Ireland threaten Group F upset



England's Steve Bull (centre) tangles with two Ireland players. (Reuter wirephoto)



Lineker runs from Irish goal mouth after scoring the goal. (Reuter wirephoto)

Yugoslavs seek win against Colombia

BOLOGNA, June 12, (Reuter): Yugoslavia, paralysed by fear against West Germany according to coach Ivica Osim, must pull themselves out of a deep depression and beat Colombia on Thursday to keep alive their World Cup hopes.

"It is not easy for us to forget this defeat," said Osim who accused his players of acting like frightened rabbits in the 4-1 Group D loss to West Germany in Milan on Sunday.

"The players are pretty depressed," said 35-year-old striker Safet Susic.

"I hope they can recover in time," Susic added. "If we can't beat Colombia we really don't belong here."

Yugoslavia have not won a match since last October and Osim said the lack of success was largely due to an absence of unity in the team.

"Our players think first of how they can play for themselves and not how they can play together," said Osim.

"The West German game was one of our worst in the four years that I have been with the team."

Osim replaced veteran Susic with 21-year-old rising star Robert Prosinicki in Sunday's second half and said he was considering several changes in the starting line-up against Colombia, who have a two-point advantage after beating the United Arab Emirates in their first match.

"Something will be changed, of course, but at the moment I can't say what," said Osim, who likes to name his team at the last possible moment.

There has been speculation that goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic, whose fumbling led directly to West Germany's fourth goal in Milan, would be dropped for Thursday's match in Bologna but Osim refused to be drawn on the subject.

History is on Yugoslavia's side against Colombia. In 1962, on the only previous trip to the World Cup finals by the South Americans, Yugoslavia beat them 5-0.

But Colombian coach Francisco Maturana has scant regard for the history books.

"We are going to write a new history," said Maturana. "The difference between the team in 1962 and the team we have now is something like going from the Earth to the sky."

Colombia would be virtually certain of reaching the second round for the first time if they beat Yugoslavia but captain Carlos Valderrama said he realised victory would not be easy.

"I am sure we can take a point off the Yugoslavians though and then I think we can take second place in the group," said Valderrama who scored the second goal in the 2-0 win against the United Arab Emirates.

Probable teams:
Yugoslavia — Tomislav Ivkovic or Fahrudin Omerovic; Zoran Vulic, Mirsad Balic; Predrag Spasic, Faruk Hadzibegic, Davor Jozic; Safet Susic or Robert Prosinicki; Srecko Katanec, Dragan Stojkovic; Dejan Savicevic, Zlatko Vujovic.

Colombia — Rene Higuita; Luis Fernando Hererra; Luis Carlos Perea, Andres Escobar; Gildardo Gomez; Leonel Alvarez, Gabriel Gomez, Carlos Valderrama, Bernardo Redin — Carlos Enrique Estrada or Arnoldo Igúaran, Freddy Rincon.

Referee: Kickoff: Thursday, 6 pm (Kuwait Time)



Irish players congratulate Sheedy. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Laimbeer lambasted for acting abilities

PORLTAND, Oregon, June 12. (AP): The distracted Portland Trail Blazers were still moaning yesterday about Bill Laimbeer's prattlings. While they did, Detroit's centre glared.

His exaggerated dives Sunday — if he were hit by a sledgehammer instead of elbow — worked perfectly. Not only did they draw fouls, they threw the Blazers off their game.

The effects were expected to linger when the Pistons took a 2-1 lead into this evening's fourth game of the NBA finals.

Laimbeer got the Trail Blazers' entire starting frontline in foul trouble Sunday when Detroit ended a 20-game losing streak in Portland with a 121-106 victory.

Blazers coach Rick Adelman said his team "might have to change its approach to avoid Laimbeer's talent for directing the officials' attention to himself and drawing fouls."

Centre Kevin Duckworth, who had five fouls Sunday, might have to play less aggressively, a switch Laimbeer would welcome. Duckworth frequently showed his frustration and anger after being called for a foul.

"I told Duck, 'You can't do it. You can't put your arm out. He's going to flop,'" Adelman said.

The Pistons won Sunday without defensive and rebounding star Dennis Rodman, who has a sprained left ankle. He said he didn't expect to play much this evening, and Detroit coach Chuck Daly said he was "questionable" for the game, but "might be probable."

Joe Dumars, who played Sunday's game without knowing his father died after a long illness in Louisiana, 1 1/2 hours before it began, was expected to play. He remained in Portland, rather than flying to Detroit and Louisiana as originally announced by the club.

"It's Joe's decision," to stay, team-mate Isiah Thomas said. "It's a tough, emotional time for him."

Portland's Buck Williams, who fouled out Sunday, called Laimbeer "the king flopper" and said, "I'm sure, I'll play with a little more compassion, for as my aggression goes."

But he said, "I'm not going to play passive."

"The officials have to be aware of what he (Laimbeer) tries to do," Adelman said. "All he does is flail away and flop around."

But Williams and Adelman didn't blame the loss on Laimbeer's tactics.

Laimbeer, who did foul out with 3:15 to play, smiled at the Blazers' complaints.

"It probably means they lost," he said. "I took tremendous abuse. All the fouls were fouls, period."

"The bottom line is to win the basketball game," he added. "If that's taking a beating on the court, then that's what it takes. ... They tried to run me over, hit me, bash me upside the head. You can't tell me any different."

"I resent it being called flopping," Daly said. "There's not many players who are willing to stand in the lane and take the hit."

Some Trail Blazers expressed admiration for Laimbeer's ability to call attention to contact.

"Your first intention to get angry is not at him," it's at the referees because they missed the call," Duckworth said.

England-New Zealand Test heading for a draw

Atherton survives Hadlee scare



Hadlee: had England in trouble

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 12, (Reuter): Mike Atherton almost certainly consigned the rain-hit first Test against New Zealand to a draw but at the same time staked a claim to a long international career with England yesterday.

By the time bad light ended play shortly before the scheduled close, the 22-year-old Lancashire batsman had made 78 not out as England reached 187 for five in their first innings in reply to New Zealand's 208.

With only one day of the five-day match remaining, a result appeared impossible.

Atherton, playing in only his third Test, gave only one chance in almost six hours at the crease and appeared unaffected by watching both captain Graham Gooch and vice-captain Allan Lamb dismissed at the other end without scoring.

Gooch went first ball on Saturday by world record wicket-taker

Richard Hadlee and it was the New Zealand paceman who again threatened to wreck the England batting when play resumed yesterday.

In the space of four balls he got Alec Stewart for 27 and Lamb to leave England in trouble at 45 for three.

But the dogged Atherton and Robin Smith guided the home team out of trouble with a stand of 96 and by the time Smith was finally dismissed for 55 New Zealand's hope of an England collapse had disappeared.

Atherton gave one chance after making 52 when he edged seamer Martin Snedden into the slips but in the main played with textbook defence on a pitch still giving help to the seamers.

His Lancashire team mate Neil Fairbrother, who had accumulated only five runs in four previous test innings, fared less well.

He never looked comfortable

while scratching his way to 19 and after 48 minutes at the crease edged Snedden to Trevor Franklin at third slip.

Jack Russell was the other undefeated batsman at the close with four.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND		innings	208 (M. Crowe 59; P. DeFreitas five for 53).
ENGLAND	first	innings	overnight
four for one wicket)			
G. Gooch lbw b Hadlee	.....	0	
M. Atherton not out	.....	78	
A. Stewart c Smith b Hadlee	.....	27	
A. Lamb lbw b Hadlee	.....	0	
R. Smith c Smith b Bracewell	.....	55	
N. Fairbrother c Franklin b Snedden	.....	19	
J. Russell not out	.....	4	
Extras (0-2 nb-2)	.....	4	
Total (for five wickets)	.....	187	
Fall of wickets 1-0 2-43 3-45 4-141	5-188		
To bat: P. DeFreitas, G. Small, E. Hemmings, D. Malcolm.			
Bowling to date: Hadlee 24-4-82-3, Morrison 12-1-57-0, Snedden 28-14-27-1, Bracewell 23-5-38-1, Priest 1-0-1-0			



Greg Thomas



Chris Tavaré

Waugh hits fourth century for Essex

LONDON, June 12, (Reuter): Australian Mark Waugh scored his fourth century in seven championship innings for Essex on the second day of their three-day county match against Warwickshire yesterday.

Waugh cracked nine fours and a six as he made 103 in helping Essex reach 331 for five before declaring at the close of play in the rain-hit match.

The other main contribution came from opener John Stephenson but his 85 took 30 minutes. He scored only 29 in a third-wicket stand of 134 with Waugh.

Paceman Greg Thomas demolished his former county Glamorgan with a career-best seven for 75 to give Northamptonshire a useful first

innings lead in their match at Northampton.

The former Test bowler ripped into the middle order with four wickets, including the vital one of Viv Richards, in 25 balls soon after lunch. He later accounted for Matthew Maynard, whose battling 74 was mainly responsible for Glamorgan totalling 259.

That left Northants with a first innings lead of 91 and by the close they had extended that to 182 as they reached 91 for two by the close.

Former Kent captain Chris Tavaré missed out on a century by 18 runs at Canterbury but then watched his bowlers reduce Kent to 121 for five in reply to Somerset's 322 for five declared.

Jeremy Hallett, playing in only his second championship game, snapped up the vital wickets of Simon Hinks and Chris Cowdrey as Kent stumbled in reply.

Scores

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 350 for eight declared in 96.2 overs and 91 for two (N. Felton 44). Glamorgan 259 in 86 overs (H. Morris 80, M. Maynard 74, R. Butcher 43; G. Thomas seven for 75).

At Old Trafford: Gloucestershire 280 for seven (G. Hodgson 72, P. Bainbridge 72, K. Curran 48) v Lancashire.

At Canterbury: Somerset 322 for five declared in 96 overs (G. Cowdrey 42).

At Edgbaston: Essex 331 for five declared in 120.1 overs (M. Waugh 103, J. Stephenson 85, N. Shahid 75 not out) v Warwickshire.

At Harrogate: Yorkshire 20 for seven off 81 overs (P. Robinson 71 not out) v Surrey.



Mathew Maynard



John Stephenson

Dunleavy replaces Riley

INGLEWOOD, California, June 12, (AP): Pat Riley left the head coaching job of the Los Angeles Lakers yesterday, after directing the team to four National Basketball Association championship in nine seasons, a 73.3 winning percentage and more than 100 playoff victories. The Lakers announced at a

news conference that Riley was leaving his job and introduced Milwaukee Bucks assistant coach Mike Dunleavy as Riley's replacement.

Dunleavy, a veteran NBA guard who last played regularly during the 1984-85 season, becomes a head coach for the first time.

Ryan pitches 6th no-hitter

OAKLAND, California, June 12, (Reuter): Texas Rangers pitcher Nolan Ryan ran his Major League record for no-hits games to six yesterday, frustrating the defending champion Oakland Athletics and defying time itself.

The 43-year-old right-hand fireballer, in his second start since returning from an injury, struck out 14 batters and walked two in the 5-0 Texas victory. Ryan, baseball's all-time strikeout king, threw 130 pitches.

In the climactic ninth inning, Oakland pinch-hitter Ken Phelps struck out, the speedy Rickey Henderson was thrown out on a slow grounder to short and Willie Randolph fouled out.

Henderson, the American

League's leading hitter, had given Ryan his closest call with a hard line drive to centre in the sixth inning that Gary Pettis came in to catch.

Ryan at 43 years four months

and 11 days is the oldest man to throw a Major League no-hitter.

The next oldest was Cy Young

who did it at the age of 41 years

and three months on June 30, 1908.

Ryan's previous no-hitter was

on September 26, 1981

against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He was a Houston Astro then, after

stints with the New York Mets

and the California Angels.

He had a one-hitter against the

Chicago White Sox on April 26

his 12th complete-game one-

hitter.

Ryan now has 59 shutouts.

Sandy Koufax is second on the

all-time no-hitter list with four.

Results

American League			
Texas	5	Oakland	0
Cleveland	4	Toronto	1
Milwaukee	4	Seattle	1
Chicago W.S.	3	Kansas City	2
California	3		
National League			
Montreal	5	Philadelphia	0
Montreal F.	3	Philadelphia	2
San Francisco	8	Atlanta	3
Chicago Cubs	8	N.Y. Mets	5
Pittsburgh Pl.	8	St. Louis	7
Houston	5	Los Angeles	3



Ryan waves his cap to the crowd

McLaren continues to dominate Formula One

MONTRÉAL, June 12. (Reuter): Ayrton Senna's comfortable victory in Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix motor race should put to rest any thought that McLaren is losing its edge in the 1990s.

When drivers from three different teams — McLaren, Ferrari and Williams — won the first three races this year, there seemed to be great hope among the Formula One fraternity of the first wide-open, competitive championship in years.

With Senna's back-to-back victories in Monaco and Canada however, McLaren, with a third of the season behind them, appear set to run away with their third successive constructors' title and have left the competition wondering what they must do to close the gap.

"I will compliment McLaren because when you have a problem with a gear box in Monaco and here and still win it's pretty good," said Ferrari's Nigel Mansell, who finished an encouraging third in Montreal behind Nelson Piquet's Benetton after an exciting duel for second place.

But fighting for second with Benetton and Williams may be the best Ferrari can hope for this year if Sunday's race is any



Senna leads Berger during Sunday's race.

come from Berger in the second McLaren if the Austrian had not been assessed a one-minute penalty for jumping the start.

Even with that huge disadvantage, Berger was able to make up enough time in his Honda-powered car to overtake Prost.

"If Berger continues to make tactical errors it will take a miracle to keep Senna from winning his second drivers' champion-

ship in three years.

"Having won three races out of five, having led five races out of five is something that shows that you've got potential," Senna said with obvious understatement.

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Argentina may not survive first round, says Maradona

ROME, June 12, (Reuter): Diego Maradona believes defending champions Argentina are not in the same class as the World Cup favourites and could even fail to survive the first round.

Speaking at the squad's Trigoria

training camp, Maradona was asked whether Argentina, devastated by a first match defeat against lowly Cameroon, could compete with the World Cup favourites.

"No, unfortunately the reality is different and we should not hide the

fact. The reality is that we are not at the same level as Italy, Brazil and West Germany," he said.

He added: "Argentina must think above all about qualifying from the first round. Before the cup began this was taken as real but now it might

even slip away from us. There is still such sadness inside us over the defeat by Cameroon, but we can't stay like this. We must find the strength to recover."

Maradona said the younger players must wake up and show they deserved

the confidence of veteran members of the team.

Unlike Brazil and Uruguay, he said, Argentina had been unable to build a new top class team after the Mexico World Cup.

Maradona said of Cameroon's

goal: "I felt as if someone had broken my legs. I was empty inside. I could not believe what had happened. It was a tragedy for everyone, especially us older players who did not expect such a humiliation."

Maradona said the Naples crowd,

who worshipped him as a hero after he took Napoli to a Second League title, could play a major role in helping Argentina do well against the Soviet Union tomorrow.

Fans have promised to make the San Paolo Stadium tremble.

SPORTS BRIEFS

World Cup results

VERONA, June 12, (Reuter): Belgium drew first blood in the World Cup's toughest first round group when they beat South Korea 2-0 today.

Goals from Marc Degryse and Michel De Wolf in the 52nd and 64th minutes gave the Belgians the perfect start in Group E which also includes Spain and Uruguay.

In Palermo, European champions The Netherlands were sensational held 1-1 by outsiders Egypt in their opening World Cup Group F match today.

Wim Kieft opened the scoring for the favourites in the 58th minute but Magdi Abdel-Ohani levelled from the penalty spot seven minutes from time.

Scotland win

INVERCARGILL, New Zealand, June 12, (Reuter): Scotland turned on a running game for the first time on their rugby union tour of New Zealand, cruising to a 45-12 win over First Division team Southland at Invercargill's rugby park today. The tourists exploded into action in the second half to rack up 33 points, maintaining their unbeaten record in their first five tour matches.

Climber dies

TALKEETNA, Alaska, June 12, (AP): The first climbing death of the 1990s on Mount McKinley was recorded Sunday night when a Japanese man died a thousand feet (about 300 metres) below the summit while rescuers rushed to his aid. The national park service said Hairoaki Ito spent almost two days stranded without a tent at the 19,000-foot (5,795 metre) level of the mountain.

Brazilian coach

ASTI, Italy, June 12, (UPI): Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni today said he had no intention of changing his squad's current strategy for its next World Cup Group C game against Costa Rica June 16, despite the Central Americans' upset 1-0 win against Scotland. "In principle that's my plan, because if we were to change four or five players now that could upset our rhythm," Lazaroni said.

English team

CAGLIARI, Italy, June 12, (UPI): England manager Bobby Robson said today that nobody should gauge his team's true World Cup potential based on how it played in a disappointing 1-1 draw against the Republic of Ireland in a first round Group F match yesterday. "It is too early to make a judgement based on a bruising match which, I agree, was not my idea of good football," said Robson.

Italian League

ERBA, Italy, June 12, (Reuter): West German team chief Franz Beckenbauer today paid tribute to the Italian League soccer system in which five of his team have flourished. Beckenbauer said it was more serious and more professional than the Bundesliga.

Local hooligans

CAGLIARI, June 12, (Reuter): Police in Cagliari today said they would crack down on local hooligans who tried to pick fights with English soccer fans at the World Cup finals. "We will not tolerate hooliganism from fans of any country, including Italy," said deputy police chief Antonio Pitea, who is co-ordinating a huge security operation for England's three Group F matches.

Portuguese star

LISBON, June 12, (Reuter): A Portuguese soccer star who might have been supporting his Benfica teammates at the World Cup in Italy could only watch them on television yesterday as he began a 75-day prison sentence for avoiding his military service. Midfielder Vitor Panteira, whose team were 1990 European Cup finalists, was 21 days late in reporting for his 16 months compulsory military service in September 1988 and was found guilty of desertion.

Germans released after being sentenced



Three W. German fans cover their faces while sitting behind a lattice in the Milan court. (Reuter wirephoto)

MILAN, June 12, (Reuter): Five West German soccer fans were each handed two-year jail terms today for fighting and vandalism in Milan during the worst outbreak of World Cup hooliganism but immediately released.

They were also banned from any of the 12 World Cup cities during the rest of the month-long competition, court officials said.

The five, aged between 20 and 31, were arrested after 1,000 West Germans, some armed with bricks and steel bars, ran wild in Italy's business capital on Sunday, smashing shop windows, damaging underground railway stations and fighting with riot police.

The incidents occurred both before and after West Germany's

4-1 victory over Yugoslavia in the World Cup first round.

The fans were released under a plea bargaining arrangement after being convicted on charges ranging from resisting arrest to malicious damage and carrying weapons.

Defence lawyers said they were likely to return immediately to West Germany.

Another eight West Germans arrested on Sunday appeared in court today in handcuffs and under strong police escort to face charges including resisting arrest and malicious damage. One was accused of carrying a knife and a mace stun spray.

They were aged from 20 to 30 and three had skinhead haircuts. They all denied the charges.

One such move saw Moin crack the ball home. Goalkeeper Issac dived to stop the ball but in the bargain saw it touch the back of his stick and umpire Elias Santimano awarded a penalty stroke, which was duly converted by Arif Srin.

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Shivji Basin presented the prizes after the game.



An Argentina trainer (left) keeps a close watch on the team led by Maradona. (Reuter wirephoto)

Argentina make five changes

TRIGORIA, Italy, June 11, (Reuter): Coach Carlos Bilardo yesterday announced an unprecedented string of five Argentine team changes for tomorrow's crucial World Cup Group B match against the Soviet Union.

He picked winger Claudio Caniggia as captain, replacing Diego Maradona's attacking partner, dropping Abel Balbo who fluffed two clear chances when the World Cup winners were shocked 1-0 by Cameroon in the opening match of the tournament on Friday.

Argentina and the Soviet Union, who were upset 2-0 by Romania on Saturday, will be looking for their first points when they clash at the San Paolo stadium in Naples.

Naming his team after a training session at Argentina's retreat outside Rome, Bilardo set the tone for the key encounter when he said: "With the Soviet Union it will be like the first final of the tournament.

"This is as if we'd got past the group stage and the matches were decisive. You stay or you go."

Both teams will retain a mathematical chance of staying in the tournament even if they lose, but Bilardo is keen to win the group and ensure that Argentina remain in Naples in the second round.

Bilardo, who never made more than two changes for any matches Argentina swept to the 1986 title in Mexico, said he had decided to opt for stronger, more mature defenders and quicker midfielders.

The tall Jose Serrizuela, of Argentine champions River Plate, who is strong coming forward and a free-kick specialist, replaces the injured Oscar Ruggeri as stopper.

Serrizuela, who has moved into the limelight at River Plate where coach and former Argentine skipper Daniel Passarella made him captain, earns only his fourth cap.

Independiente's Pedro Monzon, a tall, steady defender, also steps in at the back for Nestor Fabbri.

Bilardo aims to get quicker progress through midfield with



Carlos Menem

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Bilardo aims to get quicker progress through midfield with

Faldo tipped to win

CHICAGO, Illinois, June 12, (Reuter): Despite his poor performance at the weekend, Briton Nick Faldo is still the favourite to lift the US Open which begins at Medinah Country Club on Thursday and complete half of golf's Grand Slam.

The double US Masters champion considers the Grand Slam — Masters, Open, British Open and US PGA — as "very, very difficult but not impossible."

Faldo has placed a £100 (\$170) bet on himself to complete the quest of 250-1 with a British bookmaker and says he will give the winnings to charity if he succeeds.

In Las Vegas, the capital of gambling, bookmakers make Faldo 5-1 favourite to win the second major title of the year over the Medinah course which is rated by the US Golf Association as the second toughest in the country.

If Faldo does win the \$1.2 million Open he will be the first Briton to take the title since Tony Jacklin in 1970, but he did not look impressive in the Western Open in Chicago at the weekend. He shot a 291 four-round total to finish 16 shots behind winner Wayne Levi of the US.

While Faldo considers the possibility of becoming the first player to win the Grand Slam, American Curtis Strange is aiming to become only the second player to complete a hat-trick of US Open victories.

But his form since the Masters in April where he was joint seventh, has been erratic, with only two top-10 placings in four tournaments. He has dropped from fourth to fifth in the world rankings.



Faldo (left) with Strange at last year's US Open.

Punj rallies to outclass Abu Wishah

IN sand-swept, blistering hot conditions play opened at the Kuwait International Hotel's tennis courts on Sunday. Fifth seeded Peter Punj outlasted a three-setter victory over Samir Abu Wishah 6-2 6-1 6-1 in what turned out to be a test of stamina.

In other action, Bader Al Ali upended Mikolaj Lacynski 6-2 6-1; Khalid Al Qatami defeated Khalid Al Alami 6-0 6-0; Raed Haddad rolled over Mayyad Abbas 6-1 6-1; Khaled Al Garabally sailed by Akashay Gulati 6-1 6-0; Vijay Bala defeated Michael Pasula 6-2 6-2; Jim Beaumont edged out Samir Suleh Issa 7-5 6-4; Andrea Negri beat Abdulla Al Masri 6-2 6-0.

On the following day, Andrea Negri and Uros Lukic defeated Fahmi Al Sabri and Abdulla Al Masri 6-0 6-2; Zain Al Sabah emerged a 6-3 6-2 win over Ismail Quintero; Bader Al Bader dropped Yousaf Tugan 6-0 6-0; Nishant Dabral and Omar Siddiqui grinded out a 6-7(4) 6-4 6-3 victory over Mikolaj Lacynski and Michael Pasula; Marc Zacher defeated Ebah Sami 6-1 6-0; Ahmed Labib stopped Alan Malova 6-1 7-5; Fahmi Al Sabri cruised by Omar Siddiqui 6-0 6-0; Amer Labib defeated Maazi Majied 6-2 6-0.

The tournament has been organized for junior athletes under the age of 16 to give them a break after a grueling period of exams. It is being held in singles, and doubles categories and is being sponsored by Pepe Cola. Play continues through until Friday from 3:00 pm onwards. Spectators are welcome. An elaborate awards ceremony will close the tournament following the finals on June 15.